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LSCU, SECUF Stand Alongside Credit Unions During Aftermath of Hurricane Helene

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Following Hurricane Helene's landfall as a Category 4 storm on Thursday night, communities across Florida and Georgia are now facing the extensive devastation left in its path. With winds peaking at 140 MPH and significant flooding reported across these states, over 693,000 people remain without power.

The League of Southeastern Credit Unions (LSCU) and the Southeastern Credit Union Foundation (SECUF) had been preparing for days ahead of Hurricane Helene, gathering critical resources in anticipation of the storm's aftermath. As soon as conditions subsided, staff began delivering relief to support impacted credit unions, their staff, and communities.

"Our hearts are with all those affected by Hurricane Helene. In moments like these, we see the true power of the 'people helping people' movement" shared Samantha Beeler, President of LSCU. "Credit unions are more than just financial institutions – they are a lifeline for members, and right now, that means offering whatever support possible to help our communities rebuild and recover."

SECUF has deployed emergency supplies including food, water, formula, and mobile branches to help restore critical services in the affected areas. Many credit union employees and volunteers are also dealing with personal losses, and the Disaster Relief Fund is open to those able to contribute to provide immediate financial assistance to those in need.

"We've seen time and time again that these storms have the power to destroy not just buildings, but livelihoods," expressed Bobbi Grady, Executive Director of SECUF. "Whether it's getting a staff member the insulin they need when their power is out or helping a family find temporary shelter, the Disaster Relief Fund truly saves lives. Every donation makes a direct impact, offering hope to those who need it most."

In previous disasters, the Fund has been a critical resource for credit union employees and their families, providing grants for necessities like temporary housing, transportation, and food. Now, as the region begins its long recovery process, SECUF is calling on the credit union community and beyond to contribute to relief efforts.

For those who wish to contribute to help with recovery efforts, donations can be made to the Disaster Relief Fund by visiting <u>here</u>.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF SOUTHEASTERN CREDIT UNIONS & AFFILIATES

The League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates represents nearly 300 credit unions throughout Alabama, Florida, and Georgia and has a combined total of almost \$200 billion in assets and more than 12.4 million members. LSCU provides advocacy, compliance services, education and training, cooperative initiatives, and communications. For more information, visit <u>www.lscu.coop.</u> Follow LSCU on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, and <u>X</u>.

ABOUT THE SOUTHEASTERN CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION

The Southeastern Credit Union Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the progressive professional development of credit union staff and volunteers, financial capability programs for all age groups, and the creation of valuable resources for our member credit unions and the communities they serve. The SECUF mission is to support economic growth by promoting financial wellness, sparking collaborative community initiatives, and providing disaster preparedness and relief to credit unions.