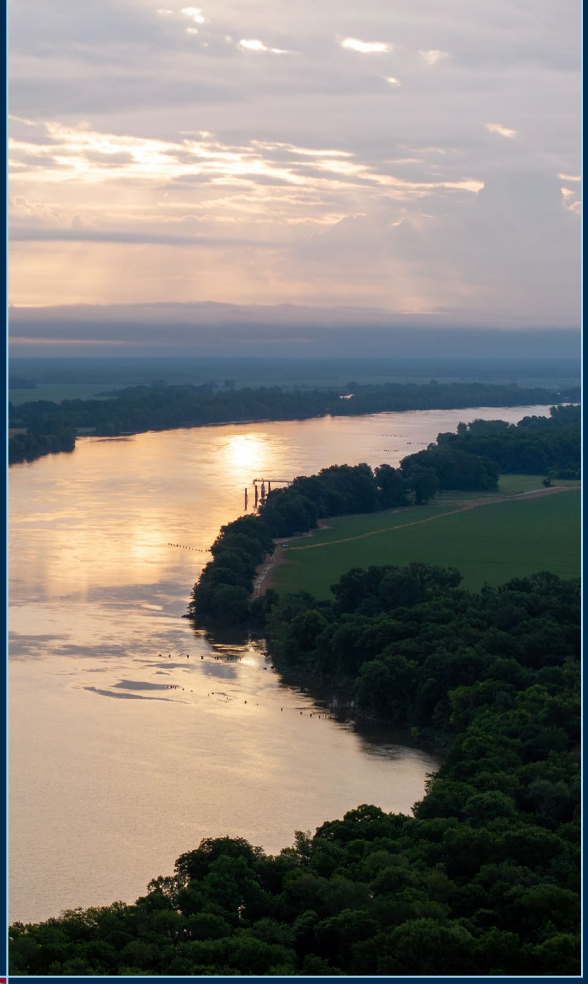
WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

Grantee Spotlights





WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION

BEYOND THE GRANT

Walton Family Foundation's Approach to the Delta

At the core of the Walton Family Foundation (WFF) is a fundamental belief: people can accomplish anything with opportunity and encouragement. This vision has guided more than three decades of WFF's investment into K–12 education, environmental conservation, and the Northwest Arkansas and Arkansas-Mississippi Delta area, otherwise known as their "Home Region."

The Delta region is where Sam and Helen Walton started Walmart, raised their family, and first found opportunity themselves. As a way of honoring place and legacy, WFF is devoted to giving back to the place that gave generously to them.

Rooted in a deep understanding of the Home Region, WFF places an emphasis on building partnerships with those in closest proximity to the challenges they tackle. These partnerships are grounded in a shared interest of helping communities thrive, in their way and on their terms, and in direct service of broadening pathways to opportunity and clearing what stands in the way. Through deep listening and building network connections, WFF demonstrates how place-based philanthropy can and should be a holistic endeavor – one that goes well beyond the grant. In the Delta, this means supporting organizations and leaders who understand the region's unique opportunities, needs and strengths, like its rich culture, deep pride and commitment to place, and a community lush with ingenuity, creativity and resilience.

The following spotlights offer a glimpse into the synergy between present and consistent philanthropic partnership and inspirational community-driven work in the Delta. The result: impact that moves the needle and will stand the test of time.



> "The Delta is full of people who have been leading and building for generations, people who aren't waiting for solutions; they're generating them in real time and in meaningful ways.



Tina Fletcher
Senior Program Officer, Home Region Program
Walton Family Foundation

Four Grantees, Four Stories



Delta Circles

Pages 06–07



Home Again

Pages 10-11



Griot Arts

Pages 08–09



Working Credit

Pages 12-13



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Delta Circles

Since 2009, Delta Circles has been dedicated to advancing economic equity for Black women in the Arkansas Delta – supporting clients as they navigate their way from poverty to prosperity. Through mentorship and financial literacy programs, as well as access to tech labs and gathering spaces, Delta Circles is in it for the long haul – knowing that generational systems change takes patience, presence and a holistic approach.

The Power of a Mindset Shift

What makes Delta Circles' impact last isn't any one program, it's the shift in mindset that the programs create, which outlasts the program itself. Fellowship, self-sufficiency, and learning opportunities and strategies come together to help clients see a different future for themselves and build toward generational wealth. Oftentimes, rural communities lack accessibility to transformational resources to create real economic mobility, and Delta Circles meet that gap directly and holistically – creating lasting change in the Arkansas Delta.

Phillips County, Arkansas	$40,134 **Median Household Income** (2020–2024)	14,255 **Population** (as of 2020)

COMMUNITY

Impact

13
years of impactful service

78
minority-owned businesses

21
local Black farmers supported through partnership with the Phillips County Black Farmers Association

29k
teachable students across the Phillips County School Districts

"If you want to invest in an area that makes a great impact, the Arkansas Delta is the place. There are so many ways we're already strong and filled with people who are eager to grow, to learn and to explore. We have a great foundation, but there's also a lot of space for growth."



Patricia Ashanti
CEO, Delta Circles

Coahoma County, Mississippi

$37,461

Median Household Income (2020–2024)

19,849

Population
(as of 2020)



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Griot Arts

Griot Arts is a nonprofit dedicated to equipping individuals with agency and support to build their place in the world by nurturing creativity, community empowerment, workforce development and belonging. That conviction anchors their tripartite programming, merging creative expression with career readiness (Meraki), cultivating young imaginations through afterschool programming (Griot Afterschool Arts), and supporting community members on their journey to artistic achievement (Bridge Services).

A Generational Commitment

Critical to fostering such spaces is confronting the systemic barriers that have kept people from having a seat at the table for generations. The reality is clear: generational issues require generational solutions. And while the temptation to grow disheartened is real – when life-altering change doesn't arrive on an immediate timeline – Griot Arts hunkers down where others uproot. It's through this long-term commitment to the community that Griot Arts shows Clarksdale, and beyond, what the Delta carries and is capable of.

A Community-First Approach

Griot Arts, in Clarksdale since 2011 attributes their flourishing not to the programs themselves, but rather to the people the programs are built to serve. This is evident in their approach – holding belonging, intentionality, and trust-building as central tenets of their work. They show up, consistently and thoughtfully, demonstrating to Clarksdale that they can be counted on to make meaningful, community-led impact in the community.



Rebekah Pleasant-Patterson
Executive Director, Griot Arts

"We just need people to be in it with us for the long haul.

148

children and young people served, ages 3 to 24

9 in 10

students measurably improved their artistic skills over the year

110

families taking part

~6,000

total art instruction hours received by students

400+

neighbors use Griot Arts' cafe and community space each month, for meals, gatherings, the annual open house, and free wellness and fitness classes.

40

art classes and workshops 19 of them offered weekly across the school year

Every young adult who finished Griot Arts' paid job-training program, run through a student-staffed coffee shop and roastery, went on to a job or college.

Clarksdale street-art project with PHA and Bloomberg Philanthropies that added eight safer crossings around the neighborhood's only grocery store.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Home Again



Home Again is a nonprofit built on a simple but radical conviction: that freedom and ownership are inextricably linked. Founded with the desire to bring people out of poverty and into self-sufficiency, Home Again renovates homes and rents them at below-market value, while setting residents on the path to home ownership, cultivating a sense of ownership within the community. After three to five years — or two years for tenants who complete all required classes and meetings — tenants can purchase the property for half its appraised value. It's evident that Home Again is in the business of helping people find freedom: taking ownership of their family and future, while providing them with the tools and support they need to get there.

Building Hope from the Ground Up

Tending to the community's physical needs is just one layer to creating generational change in Pine Bluff. Beneath the material need is a deeper one: the need to be empowered and believed in. Recipients of Home Again's support are not merely provided homes to live in, they are supported as they regain a sense of hope and the assurance that they are seen and capable of living a thriving life. Home Again accomplishes this through wraparound services, like financial and homeowners education classes – laying critical groundwork so community members are prepared and can buy the homes that Home Again revived, and for half the market value.

Jefferson County, Arkansas	$51,096	62,987
	Median Household Income (2020–2024)	**Population** (as of 2020)

> "People in Pine Bluff just need someone to believe in them again and we believe in them.

Matt Mosler
Founder, Home Again



COMMUNITY

Impact

15
houses rehabilitated

4
rehabs in progress - to be available Summer '26

3
new houses scheduled to begin construction Fall

5
new houses built & sold to new homeowners

3
new houses constructed & awaiting families

8
families currently in the program

3
families have purchased homes

Coahoma County, Mississippi

$37,461
Median Household Income (2020–2024)

19,849
Population (as of 2020)

Jefferson County, Mississippi

Median Household Income (2020–2024)

62,987
Population (as of 2020)

Phillips County, Mississippi

$40,134
Median Household Income (2020–2024)

14,255
Population (as of 2020)

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Working Credit

Working Credit was founded on a simple belief: credit is the foundation of financial health. Because credit touches nearly every part of a person's financial life, the nonprofit has made it their mission to open pathways to wealth-building by helping people build and maintain strong credit, with a clear action plan in hand, and through trauma-informed financial coaching. At its heart, Working Credit is telling a different story about credit – not as a barrier, but as a door.

Meeting the Community Where They're At

When Working Credit enters a community, especially in Pine Bluff, they make a concerted effort to ease access to their services for the people they serve by going where the community already is. In high schools, faith-based organizations, local higher education, prisons, and even local libraries, Working Credit is present, community-informed and cosigned by the entities that Pine Bluff residents already trust. And this is a massive feat for the 11-year old nonprofit, who only began their place-based approach in 2023.

Before entering into Pine Bluff, Working Credit conducted an in-depth landscape analysis involving numerous conversations with community members to assess their needs and understand if their services would fill a gap. From there, they brought on a community engagement and relationship manager who was born and raised in Pine Bluff to not only be a liaison between Working Credit and the community, but to champion the work on the ground. These efforts have paid off, granting the nonprofit trust in the community, which lays the foundation for measurable impact for years to come.



8
workshops held with 80+ attendees (in March and April 2026)

15
households purchased homes

59%
started their program increased their scores by an average of 42 points

238
community members engaged and reached (in March and April 2026)

3,000
people impacted through workshops and counseling

56%
who started the program without a credit score established an above average near print score

"If our mission is to serve the community, we need to work in collaboration and not in competition."

Morgan Spears
Co-CEO, Working Credit





Be Present, Commit Boldly

The Delta is undoubtedly teeming with the opportunity, readiness and grit needed for transformative, community-informed change.

Home to determined leaders and doers committed to lasting solutions to generational changes, the Delta is primed for partners who lead with thoughtfulness and continue the momentum built by and for the community.

This type of philanthropic partnership in the Delta has to lead with humility. It requires listening first, planting roots, bolstering initiatives that are already working and trusting local leaders to guide the way.

It's clear: the Delta doesn't need to be reinvented; it needs to be invested in, holistically, responsibly and with longevity in mind. For funders ready and willing to lean in and be flexible, this is a moment with real opportunity.

It's evident that this is the time to be present and commit boldly. The Delta is ready for partners who honor its past, respect its present and believe in its future.

For more information on Walton Family Foundation's work in the Delta, you can learn more at waltonfamilyfoundation.org/our-work/home-region-program/delta. For those interested in building meaningful partnerships in the region, you can reach out to: info@wffmail.com.



> "Over a generation, success means Delta residents can see and feel lasting change in their communities — stronger pathways to learn, work, build financial resilience and lead, supported by systems and institutions that are durable enough to sustain progress over time.



Robert Burns
Director, Home Region Program
Walton Family Foundation

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION

waltonfamilyfoundation.org