Southern Good Faith Fund’s Asset Builders program combines Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and economic skills training to help people with limited means secure their financial future.

IDAs are matched savings accounts for working poor families who are trying to buy their first home, make improvements to their home, pay for post-secondary education or job training, or start their own business.

Participants save regularly and for each $1 individuals save, they receive $3 in matched funds, up to a maximum of $2,000 for an individual or $4,000 for a household.

We are proud to have support from our bank partners who provide no-fee, interest-bearing savings accounts to our participants. Our banking partners include:


**Mississippi:** Delta Southern Bank; Itta Bena: Hope Federal Credit Union; Marks: First Delta Federal Credit Union.

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**Who We Help**

- 89% are African American
- 82% are female
- 51% are single
- 81% have a monthly household income of less than $2,000
- 22% do not have a bank account at enrollment

**Accomplishments**

- 741 participants in 30 counties in Arkansas and Mississippi
- $1,511,180 in cumulative savings including participant savings and match money
- 415 asset purchases
- $4,474,495 leveraged in mortgage loans

**Participants By Monthly Household Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Household Income</th>
<th>Percent of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - $99</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100 - $1,000</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,001 - $2,000</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>above $2,000</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cumulative Savings**

- **Participant Savings**
- **Match Money**
- **Total**

- March 2007: $1,511,180
- 2006: $1,127,344
- 2005: $383,836
- 2003: $0

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www.southerngff.org
Melva Trask went from waiting to be rescued on a roof in the flood-stricken state of Louisiana with 14 members of her family, to standing on her own two feet in Arkansas. Melva, a Katrina survivor, has found purpose and hope in Arkansas. Clothed in determination and motivation, Melva accepted every offer of help and networked to find the available resources to help her get back on her feet.

FEMA and the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services referred Melva to the IDA program. She, along with four other family members, enrolled immediately. Melva’s resolve to restore order and purpose to her life was reflected in her awe-inspiring motivation—she attended every class and saved her money in the minimum amount of time allowed.

Melva used her IDA savings and match to continue her education in the Master’s degree program of addiction studies at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Melva plans to become an addiction counselor to the incarcerated population. She recently completed a 150-hour internship at the Community Resource Agency and was offered a permanent position and now works as a prevention resource coordinator.

Out of devastation and uncertainty, Melva has attained great achievement. Melva has gone from being displaced to being in the right place.