

# Building

ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY,  
BUT Every Day We Are Building ROME.

Walker Area Community Foundation fully believes its greatest days are not the ones behind us, but the ones before us.

We Are **Building** a better life for all who live and work in Walker County.

IT'S GOING TO BE MAGNIFICENT.

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**Barbara Medders**  
Bankhead House & Heritage Center Coordinator  
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In 2019 alone, we invested more than **\$3,000,000** into nonprofit organizations.

## History and Milestones

In 1995, following a suggestion from John T. Oliver, Jr., Pat Willingham and the Community Health Systems Board set aside \$6 million in proceeds from the sale of the Walker Regional Medical Center to begin an endowment for the Walker Area Community Foundation. This donation has served as the nucleus for funding worthy causes that might otherwise go lacking.

Other community leaders involved in the formation of the foundation were the late J. George Mitnick and Larry Drummond. Together, Oliver, Willingham, Mitnick and Drummond created a foundation that will forever serve as resource for solutions to our community's greatest problems.

Since 1995, the Foundation's endowment has grown from the original \$6 million to more than \$72 million due to wise investments and the creation of new Donor Advised Funds, but mostly because of the faithfulness of our donors.

The first two years were a time of growth for the endowment. In 1997, the first seven grants were awarded in the amount of \$289,300. Since then, the Foundation and its funds have awarded over \$23 million in grant money to more than 250 nonprofit organizations in our area. In addition to awarding grants where warranted, the Foundation staff is dedicated to developing the internal capacity of nonprofit organizations. We provide training sessions to assist with business operations and to further assist in their receipt of out-of-county funds from state, federal and private sources.

The Foundation made its biggest and most impactful gift yet with the opening of the Bankhead House & Heritage Center. Purchased, renovated and maintained by the Foundation because of the generosity of a few special donors, the Bankhead House & Heritage Center is here to serve our community as a treasure trove of information, artifacts, cultural events and varied forms of art that connect our proud past to our optimistic present while showcasing our bright future.

In 2011, disaster struck our county in the form of tornados. From those first days, a different kind of relationship was brokered between the foundation and Walker County nonprofits involved in disaster relief. We quit being just the funder and became a partner. We forged stronger bonds with local donors as well as regional and national funders. Because of our leadership, we became known throughout the state as the ones to call with questions because we were "getting it done in Walker County."

Recently, the Foundation created its own strategic plan and began to lead the way in planning for Walker County as a whole with partners including the Walker County Commission, Chamber of Commerce of Walker County, Jasper Industrial Development Board, Walker County Economic Development Authority, Senator Greg Reed and all of the municipalities in our county.

**Together, we are taking advantage of key opportunities to build for the future.**

**73,511** individuals received food through community food pantries and soup kitchens.

## WACF Financial History

YEAR	GRANTS AWARDED	GIFTS RECEIVED	TOTAL ASSETS
1995	–	6,000,000	6,000,000
1996	–	75,000	6,439,025
1997	289,300	147,250	7,595,028
1998	295,000	51,869	8,192,311
1999	367,300	100,154	8,542,749
2000	311,106	60,425	8,627,833
2001	294,490	179,278	8,226,235
2002	223,377	211,236	7,410,969
<i>Gift and grant totals from this point forward include both our unrestricted Community Fund as well as our Component Funds.</i>			
2003	330,213	359,556	8,770,491
2004	264,158	358,402	9,902,100
2005	308,211	244,765	10,695,867
2006	489,473	552,806	12,018,241
2007	569,170	432,961	12,164,567
2008	705,627	995,255	9,730,123
2009	465,969	776,138	12,143,056
2010	627,450	887,699	13,361,818
2011	1,190,071	10,701,343	22,328,994
2012	3,626,636	2,507,746	23,366,184
2013	3,073,770	1,187,125	23,976,770
2014	1,288,044	632,233	23,971,032
2015	1,015,748	1,317,305	23,697,848
2016	1,245,495	472,913	24,069,051
2017	1,393,391	1,959,290	26,844,697
2018	2,055,904	43,579,423	66,352,747
2019	3,024,560	424,999	72,387,187
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$23,454,463</b>	<b>\$74,215,171</b>	

**4,277** trips were provided to those in need of transportation.

## It's Easy To Give Away Money. It's Hard To Give It Away Well.

The Foundation awards grants that address the evolving needs of our nonprofit organizations. Twice a year, we accept grant proposals from 501(c)(3) organizations. We support organizations that demonstrate the expertise and experience necessary to accomplish their mission, operate under sound financial principles, have a future funding plan and a solid base of community support. Once awarded a grant, the recipient is required to sign a contract with the Foundation, which communicates that funds from the Foundation may only be used on the objectives listed in the recipient's grant proposal. A written report on the funded project is due in the Foundation's office nine months after funding is received. The report requests financial data, as well as specific information concerning progress toward the stated objectives of the project. Listed below are the nonprofits who received funding from the Community Fund, as well as our Component Funds over the last five years.

### Arts and Humanities

Alabama Symphony Orchestra  
Bankhead House & Heritage Center  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
Birmingham Children's Theatre  
Birmingham Landmarks, Inc.  
Camp McDowell  
First Presbyterian Church  
Friends of Alabama Archives  
Jasper Main Street  
UAB Department of Theatre  
Walker County Arts Alliance  
Walker County Christian Chorus  
WBHM 90.3 FM  
Winston County Arts Council  
Winston County Schools

Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama  
Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama  
Kids Loving Kids/Grace Ministries  
Magic Moments  
Maranatha Baptist Church  
Nick's Kids Foundation  
Raising Arrows  
Secret Pantry  
Smile-A-Mile  
Walker County Children's Advocacy Center  
Walker County Children's Policy Council  
YMCA of Greater Birmingham  
Youth Leadership Walker County

### Education

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation/Jean Dean RIF  
Alabama Possible  
Auburn University Foundation  
Bevill State Community College  
Carbon Hill High School  
Carl Elliott Regional Library  
Curry High School  
Jalayah Hackman Foundation  
Jasper City Board of Education  
Jasper Police Explorers

Literacy Council of Central Alabama

McWane Science Center  
Oakman High School  
Parrish Elementary School  
Preschool Partners  
Samford University  
Sumiton Middle School  
T.R. Simmons Elementary  
University of Alabama New College Program  
Valley Jr. High School  
Walker College Foundation  
Walker County Board of Education  
Walker County Sheriff's Office

### Elder Care

Alzheimer's of Central Alabama  
Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging  
Positive Maturity, Inc.

### Environment

Disney Lake Landing Project  
Walker County Lake  
Wild South

### Health

Alabama Lions Sight  
American Cancer Society, Inc.  
American Heart Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Boldo Volunteer Fire and Rescue  
Brandi's Blessings  
Capstone Rural Health Center  
Children's of Alabama  
City of Cordova Fire Department  
Community Grief Support Service  
Empire Volunteer Fire Department  
Glenwood Autism & Behavioral Health Center  
Healthy Eating Active Living, Inc.  
Impact Alabama  
Kid One Transport System, Inc.  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center  
Pregnancy Test and Resource Center  
Saragossa Volunteer Fire Department  
Sight Savers America  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing  
Walker County Health Action Partnership  
YMCA of Montgomery

### Recreation

Birmingham Zoo, Inc.  
C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation  
City of Cordova

City of Jasper Parks and Recreation  
Indian Creek Youth Camp  
J.H. Ranch  
People First of Walker County  
Sawyer'sville Summer Camp  
Townley Community Center  
Walker County Commission

### Social Welfare

American Red Cross  
Arc of Walker County  
Arley Women's Club  
Bethel Church Food Bank  
Big Oak Ranch  
Christian's Place Mission  
City of Jasper  
City of Lights Dream Center  
ClasTran  
Community Food Bank of Central Alabama  
Community Foundation of East Alabama  
Daily Mountain Eagle Christmas Shoe Fund  
Daybreak  
Dilworth Church of God  
Equines Assisting Special Individuals  
First United Methodist Church of Jasper  
FOCUS On Recovery  
Food Bank of East Alabama  
Full Life Ahead Foundation  
Greater Birmingham Humane Society  
Habitat for Humanity, Greater Birmingham

Hope for Women, LLC  
Hope House Church  
Jasper Area Family Services Center, Inc.  
Jasper's First Baptist Church  
Main Street Ministries Inc.  
Mission of Hope  
New Prospect Baptist Church  
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Rescuers United for Furbabies  
Ronald McDonald House  
Rotary Foundation  
Sanctuary Church of God  
Southern Research  
St. Cecilia's Catholic Church  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Sumiton Church of God Food Bank Ministry  
The Salvation Army  
Town of Oakman  
Town of Parrish  
TriCounty Agency for Intellectual Disabilities  
United Way of Central Alabama, Inc.  
Victims of Violent Crimes Memorial Fountain  
Walker County Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
Walker County Coalition for the Homeless  
Walker County Community Action Agency  
Walker County Department of Human Resources  
Walker County Humane Society  
Your Town Alabama  
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.

**13,000** library patrons were impacted by new books and equipment.

# Generation Walker

Generation Walker, a road map for creating a vision for a vibrant future for Walker County, emerged from a yearlong planning process by the Walker Area Community Foundation. We listened to more than 150 citizens across Walker County and were excited to hear of our common love for our beautiful land, the great work already in progress by so many organizations, and the excitement and optimism we share about this time in the life of our community.

The result of this process, Generation Walker, is a plan that identifies four external priorities for the Foundation to focus on over the next three to five years in collaboration with leaders and citizens across the county. Together, we can take advantage of the key opportunities to build for the future.



## CREATE ALIGNMENT AND A COMMON VISION

GOAL

Provide a framework of support to facilitate the building of strong, unified leadership and development of a countywide common vision.



## STRENGTHEN EDUCATION

GOAL

Promote quality of life and employment opportunities in Walker County by building stronger educational systems.



## SUPPORT NONPROFITS

GOAL

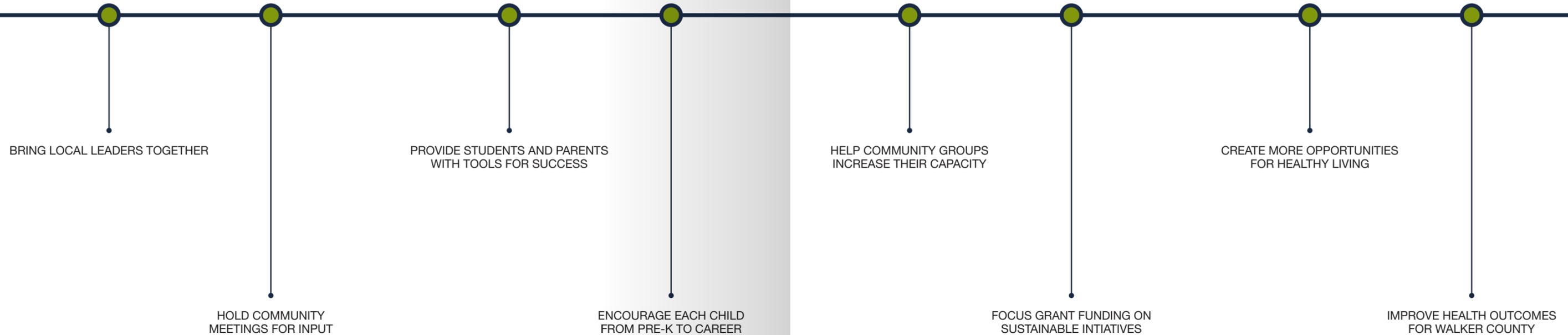
Support nonprofits in Walker County through Foundation grants and capacity-building initiatives.



## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND RECREATION

GOAL

Health outcome trends for Walker County improve over the next 3–5 years.



"We need more community engagement with opportunities for various groups to talk with each other about how to solve problems in Walker County and to celebrate the many strengths in the community."

INTERVIEW PARTICIPANT

"We have to continue to mentor and educate our youth in order to have successful leaders of tomorrow."

SURVEY PARTICIPANT

"I would like to see more countywide cooperation and collaboration between local city governments, churches and nonprofits."

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION PARTICIPANT

"My vision is to be a healthier community with people making better lifestyle choices."

INTERVIEW PARTICIPANT

## Component Funds

Component funds allow families, individuals or organizations to focus on the charitable needs of our community and leave the administrative tasks to the Foundation. These funds are a permanent source of community capital, which will help the Foundation to continue its work today and far into the future.

Behind each fund is an abundance of success stories, so many that we cannot possibly fit them on one page. You can see, however, that there are family funds and organizational funds. Each one holds its own purpose and history, but gains strength from being managed together. Donations can be made to any fund at any time.

**Anonymous Fund** started by a Walker County family who wishes to remain anonymous, supports general philanthropy.

**Bankhead Fund** was started by Walter Will Bankhead and has a long history of providing general philanthropic dollars for our nonprofits.

**Bankhead House & Heritage Center Fund** supports the ongoing operations of the Bankhead House & Heritage Center.

**Barbara Drummond Thorne Fund**, given by her estate, offers financial aid to the organizations that were closest to her heart.

**Crump Family Fund** supports the education of children and the efforts of those engaged in emergency response.

**Disaster Relief Fund** focuses on meeting the emergency unmet needs of Walker County residents who have suffered damage due to natural disasters.

**Don Drummond Family Fund** seeks to meet the needs of the residents of Walker County, as well as the community as a whole.

**Drummond Company, Inc. (DCI) Fund** provided aid to employees of Drummond Company who suffered damage because of the April 27, 2011, tornados and continues to provide safe shelter for our community during storms.

**Drummond Thorne Stukes Fund** works to improve quality of life around Alabama while also addressing emerging needs of the City of Cordova.

**Engel and Mitnick Family Fund** recognizes the importance of the social services being delivered every day to those with mental illness in Walker County and will award grants to support their efforts.

**Excellence in Education Fund** supports the Jasper City School system and its teachers with expenses not included in the general budget.

**Friends of Camp O'Rear Fund** supports the physical plant and surrounding environs of Camp O'Rear.

**Health Action Partnership** is a working group of Walker County health-related organizations striving to improve the health and lifestyles of our citizens.

**Jackson Family Fund** was founded with the belief that orphans and foster children should be afforded the privilege of attending programs like Camp McDowell. It also provides educational enrichment experiences for children without parents and supports the ministry of the Episcopal Church for the same.

**Jasper Main Street Fund** supports the operations of Jasper Main Street and the ongoing revitalization of Jasper's downtown district.

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**1,521** enjoyed programs and activities at the Townley Community Center.

**Jasper Recreational Fund** supports the expansion of recreational opportunities and programs, making Jasper's recreational offerings exceptional for Alabama.

**Joe and Annette Kelley Fund**, started by their daughters to give back to the community that has taken care of them and in honor of their mom and dad, this fund fosters a spirit of kindness and helpfulness through the nonprofit agencies in our community.

**KUB Philanthropic Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our communities.

**Larry Drummond Family Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County as well as supports initiatives that improve the quality of life in our community.

**Matthew and Ashley Laird Fund** recognizes the important work of nonprofit organizations and supports their operations and programs.

**Onward Fund** fosters efficient, streamlined service delivery to people in need, moving them forward into financial stability.

**Patrick and Debbie Drummond Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our communities.

**Reed Family Fund** supports general philanthropy while keeping in mind the importance of serving the basic needs of Walker County families.

**Rotary Club of Jasper Fund** is an endowment fund of the Rotary Club of Jasper.

**Samuel Lee Smith Advised Fund** helps children and youth live their lives to the fullest by making grants to encourage strong health, athletics, scouting, religion and the arts, especially to those who need financial assistance.

**Sherer Family Foundation Fund** supports the aesthetics of our community and the fine arts of the Walker Area, its facilities, grounds, and environs.

**Steve Byars Fund** is created in the memory of Steve Byars, who saw his role in Jasper as that of a steward and gave selflessly to his community. This fund will continue his legacy and support general philanthropy in Walker County.

**Terri Drummond Lyon Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our communities.

**Underwood Family Fund** continues the family's tradition of supporting nonprofit organizations in Walker County.

**Victims of Violent Crime Fund** was organized to create awareness of victims of violent crime in Walker County, Alabama.

**Wright Family Fund** supports the needs of nonprofit organizations in and around Walker County, as well as initiatives that improve the quality of life in our community.

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**2,162** people received free vision screening.

## Levels of Giving

### Giving Societies

The societies of the Foundation are extremely important when it comes to the annual giving of our donors. Each society is based on cumulative giving, so donors automatically move up when they reach the next threshold.

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY	\$100,000 <i>and greater</i>
HERITAGE SOCIETY	\$50,000–\$99,999
CORNERSTONE SOCIETY	\$25,000–\$49,999
KEYSTONE CIRCLE	\$15,000–\$24,999
FOUNDERS SOCIETY	\$10,000–\$14,999
PRESIDENT’S CLUB	\$5,000–\$9,999
DIRECTOR’S SOCIETY	\$1,500–\$ 4,999
CIRCLE OF FRIENDS	\$150–\$1,499

### Legacy Society

The Legacy Society honors individuals who make a financial contribution by arranging a deferred gift through their will or estate plan.

**1,079** children received head-to-toe health screenings.

## Ways to Give

There are many ways to give to the Walker Area Community Foundation.

Contact the Foundation or your Financial Planner if you need help choosing the method that is right for you.

CASH OR CHECK <i>Please make checks payable to WACF, designate a fund in the Memo line.</i>
APPRECIATED STOCK
BEQUESTS
INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS & OTHER RETIREMENT PLANS
LIFE INSURANCE
CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS
CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES
REAL ESTATE
BUILD YOUR OWN PLAN

Contributions to the Foundation may be made through honorariums and memorials. The Foundation will acknowledge the gift on your behalf. For online giving or information about our funds, visit [wacf.org](http://wacf.org).

**2,340** students in Walker County learned about healthy foods and fitness.

IF YOU DO A LITTLE RESEARCH, YOU WILL LEARN IT TAKES A POPULATION OF AT LEAST 100,000 TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. THE WALKER COUNTY AREA IMPROVED THE RESEARCH WRONG. OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS WE HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN \$74 MILLION IN GIFTS AND GRANTED OVER \$23 MILLION TO MORE THAN 250 NONPROFITS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. SIMPLE MATH SAYS WE SHOULD ONLY HAVE \$51 MILLION LEFT IN ASSETS. AGAIN, REALITY OUTPERFORMS THE "SHOULD BE." TODAY, THE TOTAL ASSETS OF YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EXCEED \$72 MILLION.

Our Foundation is successful because we all come together to make a difference. It would not work with just a staff, just a board or just individual donors. It takes us all working together. It's the very definition of synergy: the creation of a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Synergy is not a word we use every day, but what a great word and concept! We can and do so much more TOGETHER than we can alone.

Over the last  
**25 YEARS,**  
 we have received more than  
**\$74 MILLION**  
 in gifts and granted over  
**\$23 MILLION**  
 to nonprofits serving  
 our community.

Today, we have the opportunity to influence the quality of life for our community and our state. The philanthropy we engage in is more than just money, it's "us"—a collective of people's hopes, their dreams and their aspirations to build a better community. The conversations, learning, risk-taking, experiments and love that people bring to our table create real community answers to our greatest needs.

*We can shape the future of Walker County, together. That's the real story of the Foundation. By investing in this generation, we invest in tomorrow's promise.*



## Donor Advised Fund Agreement

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_ give to the Walker Area Community Foundation, (hereinafter "The Community Foundation") an Alabama nonprofit corporation, the following money or property:

Said gift is to be administered as a component fund of The Community Foundation in accordance with the purposes and pursuant to the terms of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws of The Community Foundation, and Advised Fund Guidelines as presently in effect or as amended from time to time.

I/We request that this gift shall be identified as the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund of the Community Foundation. Grants may be made from either the principal and/or income to qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

In making this gift, I/We do hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as the contact person and as the one to make recommendations to the Board of Directors of The Community Foundation on grants to be made from this Advised Fund

I/We understand that the Board of Directors of The Community Foundation are legally vested with the final responsibility to determine what grants are to be made from this Advised Fund as it seeks to fulfill its primary purpose of \_\_\_\_\_

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WALKER AREA Community Foundation

25 YEARS of SUSTAINABLE GIVING

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