



Walton Family Foundation donates funds for Milwaukee education

By Kaellen Hessel | June 28, 2011

The Walton Family foundation gave more than \$157 million to education reform initiatives last year, including \$5.6 million to Milwaukee organizations.

The foundation, started by Walmart foundation Sam Walton and his wife, Helen, gave 20 Milwaukee organizations grants to create quality schools, shape public policy and improve existing schools, according to the foundation's website.

The foundation's goal is to give parents in high-poverty areas the ability to choose among quality, publicly funded schools, according to the news release. Albany, Denver, Los Angeles, Newark, Washington, D.C. and New Orleans also received grants.

The Milwaukee recipients receiving more than \$300,000 are IFF, University of Arkansas Foundation, Inc., Teach for America (National), St. Anthony School of Milwaukee and School Choice Wisconsin.

The organizations receiving funds are either charter schools, voucher schools or organizations that promote school choice. IFF is a nonprofit lender and real estate consultant that helps charter schools with financing and their real estate needs, according to the IFF website. The Walton grant financed research by the University of Arkansas on Milwaukee's voucher program.

Jim Blew, a consultant for the foundation's Systemic K-12 Education Reform efforts, said in the news release, "When all parents have the ability to choose quality schools for their children, a competitive dynamic emerges that can inspire the broader school system to improve, helping transform public education in our nation."