

## **FOCUS ON A CDFI:**

### **Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD)**

Jackson, Mississippi

[www.ecd.org](http://www.ecd.org)

The Mississippi Delta is one of the most economically distressed regions in the United States. Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi consistently rank lowest among the states on most socioeconomic indicators, and the Delta generally ranks at the bottom of such indicators within each state.

Low education levels, out-migration, scarcity of resources and racial disparities are major barriers to business development in the Delta. Heavily influenced by the historical dominance of plantation agriculture; low wages, limited training opportunities and inequalities persist and limit the social and economic development of the Region and its approximately 1.6 million residents.

The Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD) aims to rectify this. ECD is a private, nonprofit business development organization and certified CDFI whose primary mission is to improve the quality of life for low- and moderate- income residents of the Delta and rural regions of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. ECD accomplishes its mission by providing market-driven financial and technical assistance to firms, entrepreneurs and homeowners; forging strategic partnerships with private, public and nonprofit organizations; and otherwise promoting the development of the region's human and economic assets. ECD programs include: the Delta Reinvestment Fund; commercial financing products such as working capital lines of credit, construction financing, short-term bridge financing, letters of credit, loans and venture capital; and technical assistance.

Since 1995, ECD has:

- Closed 171 loans totaling more than \$27 million
- Leveraged \$33 million in additional financing from other sources
- Made nearly 40% of its loans to minority- and women-owned businesses
- Trained over 1,000 entrepreneurs in areas such as workforce development, sales and marketing, accounting and engineering.

The following are a few examples of the businesses and people that the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta has helped. For more information, visit their website at [www.ecd.org](http://www.ecd.org)



#### **STU-MARTS**

A combination convenience store, hardware store, and restaurant, STU-MARTS is owned and operated by Frank Stuart. By financing this business, ECD helped fill retail needs in the community of Cary, Miss.

*Godbold and Company Photography*



### **Computers, Inc.**

Three women own and operate this Clarksdale, Miss., company that installs custom equipment for schools, governments and commercial businesses. A partner, Nita Brooks, center, teaches computer skills to local students. ECD and First National Bank of Clarksdale partnered to provide capital for the business.

Photo by Kendall Messick



### **Stonecraft, LLC**

Stonecraft in Rolling Fork, Miss., manufactures polymer-modified concrete flooring with special appeal for architects and interior designers. ECD partnered with the Bank of Anguilla, USDA, and local government agencies to provide financing for this project.

*Godbold and Company Photography*

*ECD is a member of the National Community Capital Association (NCCA), the national member organization of CDFIs. For more information about NCCA's work to provide capital, technical assistance and development services to low-income communities, visit their website at [www.communitycapital.org](http://www.communitycapital.org)*