Name of Project: R.O.O.T.S of Sunflower County

Date of interview: June 23, 2016

Location of Interview: Indianola, MS

Name of Interviewer(s): Calvin Griffin (A)

Name of Interviewee(s): Brooks Ann Gaston (B)

Name of File: 027.MOV video File

[0:15] **A**: How do you feel about this community?

[0:18] **B**: I think this community is thriving and it’s uhm coming back to life. You know most of the Delta communities have been a little bit stagnant but Indianola and Sunflower County seem to be on cusp of coming back.

[0:36] **A**: If you could speed up the ‘coming back’ process how would you do it?

[0:41] **B:** I would probably focus more on education, starting really young, working with junior high and high school until they get married and have a family and just taking them through the whole thing—the whole process.

[1:00] **A:**  Do you think things are better now than it use to be or are they worse now?

[1:05] **B:** Well I’m not from here so I don’t really know if they’re better or worse but if we go from watching things on TV, it seems that the crime seems to be less than what it use to be on TV from what I see.

[1:37] **A:** What changes do you think you would make around Sunflower County that would better benefit everybody?

[1:53] **B**: When you first come into a town one of the things that everyone looks at is just how clean or how dirty it was and so as a start, you know, I think the mayor has been working with some of his youth council to have them picking up the trash but you know that’s just a little thing that makes a difference in changing. And then in your education I’d make sure that the best teachers are there, the best people that will support and mentor you as a student, mentor them and motivate them to do better. Everybody wants everyone to do better.

[2:31] **A:** What made you to come to Sunflower County?

[2:36] **B:** Well I came here for my job and with the Indianola Promise Community and the Delta Health Alliance we are working hard to promote Indianola and what’s going on and the great changes that we’re making and so I wanted to be a part of that so I decided to work an come into Indianola every day.

[3:00] **A:** If you had a chance would you stay here in Indianola, in Sunflower County? Would you move into Sunflower County?

[3:08] **B:** There’s always a possibility but when you own a house in another—it’s hard to pick up and move so right now I’m just commuting in and out.

[3:23] **A:** Do you ever go to Wal-Mart down here?

[3:23] **B:**  Yeah.

[3:26] **A:** Do the workers treat you well, like with respect or like when you need help or something do they take a long time coming?

[3:26] **B:** I haven’t had any problems at Wal-Mart, here, so I can’t say that I’ve had any problems with them taking a long time to come and help me out.

[3:47] **A:** Have you had a problem with anybody, period? Not just at Wal-Mart.

[3:52] **B:** I haven’t run into any problems in Indianola. Everyone seems really friendly and when I’m going out into the community, usually when I ask for something, people are willing to help.