

Resident Cooks Up Plan for Success

When Leslie Goodson and her three sons moved into an Austin homeless shelter, she felt like her world was crumbling. Leslie had overcome a lot already – her first son’s extended hospital stays due to a rare heart condition and the sudden death of her husband. At the time, Leslie’s estranged relationship with her father left her with nowhere else to turn.

“I was devastated,” she said.

Leslie learned about Foundation Communities while at the shelter. With our support, she gradually managed to get back on her feet and provide her family with a safe, affordable place to call home.

After moving into her new apartment, Leslie decided that she wanted to change her life for good and build a better future for herself and her sons. She utilized our onsite support services and took advantage of our financial stability programs.

Leslie has participated in Foundation Communities’ money management classes and one-on-one financial coaching. She also had her taxes prepared for free at our Community Tax Centers and, in August, she joined a brand-new savings program that encourages families to set aside money each month for emergencies.



The 42-year-old single mom said she now knows how to manage her budget, improve her credit score, and save for the future. With the help of her financial coach, Leslie is also actively pursuing her goal of opening a soul food restaurant in Austin.

“I love food and I love the feeling that I get when I feed people and they’re happy,” she said.

In addition to her full-time job as a medical assistant at a local clinic, Leslie spends her time researching other restaurants, coming up with menu ideas, and figuring out pricing.

Recently, she catered a few small parties and she is considering the possibility of owning and operating her own food truck.

“With the steps I’m taking, slowly, but surely, I know [my restaurant] is going to be successful,” she said.

Leslie said she will continue to work towards her goal, with the hope of one day passing her business on to her sons. In the meantime, the budding entrepreneur says she knows her sons are proud of all the progress she has made financially – and in life.

Want to hear more of Leslie’s inspiring story? Visit FoundCom.org and watch our “Stories of Hope” video in the “About Us” section.

Volunteer with Insure Central Texas!



Insure Central Texas, Foundation Communities’ latest initiative, has served nearly 2,000 people since October 1.

Thousands of families and individuals in our community are seeking health insurance for the first time, and we need your help guiding them through the enrollment process.

Become an Insure Central Texas volunteer! Please visit InsureCentralTexas.org for information on how to get involved.

Holiday Program Our Best Yet!

The spirit of giving is thriving in Austin! Thanks to hundreds of community members, as well as 72 churches, businesses and civic groups, this was our most successful holiday program ever. We matched **319**

Foundation Communities’ families with holiday sponsors

and received gifts for many more through our holiday drive. We also raised over **\$10,000** in donations to purchase additional wish list items and organize holiday meals and parties at all of our communities.

For Elizabeth Cruz (pictured), a mother of three who works multiple jobs and still struggles to make ends meet, the holiday program made it possible for her to provide gifts to her children.

Thank you to everyone who made the 2013 holiday program our best yet!

Want a behind-the-scenes look at our 2013 Holiday Program? Check out the FC blog at FoundCom.org to watch a short video.





3036 South First Street
Austin, TX 78704
512.447.2026
FoundCom.org

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Foundation Communities provides first class, affordable homes and free onsite support services for thousands of working families with kids, as well as veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. We offer an innovative, proven model that empowers our residents and neighbors to achieve educational success, financial stability, and healthier lifestyles. We own and operate 17 properties in Austin and North Texas.

Foundation Communities Updates



Welcome Home Luncheon 2013

At our Welcome Home Luncheon in October, we raised \$750,000 to fund the onsite support services and the educational, financial stability, and healthy living programs that empower our residents to transform their lives. A special thank you to Realty Austin and Long Motors for their generous matching gifts, and to all of our fabulous Table Hosts who helped us inspire nearly 700 guests to give!

Garden Terrace Addition

We are excited to announce our latest construction project – Garden Terrace Phase III! We will be adding a new wing, comprised of 20 units, to Garden Terrace in Southwest Austin this year.

Free Tax Prep & Filing!

- Free to households up to \$50K/yr
- IRS-certified volunteer preparers
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For locations and hours call 2-1-1 or visit CommunityTaxCenters.org

