



IMPACT

JULY–AUGUST 2017

FoundCom.org
Visit to get involved!

Keeping Learning Alive During Summer Months

Eight years ago, Amelia and her husband left Mexico in pursuit of more opportunities for their family. The soon-to-be parents settled in Austin and struggled to find a home they could afford. They moved to our Southwest Trails community shortly after and had two daughters, Kathy and Vanessa. Both girls attend our free after-school and summer learning programs at the on-site Community Learning Center and are thriving at Oak Hill Elementary.

"I want my daughters to be educated and have a better future," said Amelia, who was one-year shy of graduating from high school herself.

Amelia cleans houses and her husband works at a car wash. Living at Southwest Trails for the last several years has been critical for the family's stability. Not many other apartments in Austin are within the family's modest budget. In addition, Amelia has participated in our free English as a Second Language and nutrition classes and the family regularly attends community events.

"It's peaceful here and we appreciate all of the services provided at the learning center," Amelia said.

For Kathy, 7, and Vanessa, 8, our learning center is a welcoming space where they get daily assistance with homework and participate in enrichment activities with

friends. Right now, the girls are enrolled in the summer learning program, which helps prevent "summer slide" by focusing on reading, math, and science.

"Summer slide" is the tendency for students, particularly those from low-income families, to lose some of the academic gains they made during the school year.

Research indicates that summer learning loss widens the achievement gap between low- and middle- to high-income students. Almost 600 students are enrolled in our free summer learning program.

This year, all of our learning centers are utilizing the "I-Ready" program to ensure students are reading on grade level. Amelia wants her daughters to practice reading and stay engaged during the summer months so they are ready when school begins again. The program isn't just about academics, though, as there is plenty of time for fun, too. Students at Southwest Trails, for example, are slated to go to the Bullock Texas State History Museum, get a visit from an animal show, go swimming at the community pool, and take weekly nutrition and cooking classes.

Summer will be gone before we know it, and it's important that our students continue to learn, grow, and play during these months. We want Kathy, Vanessa, and the rest of our students to succeed academically and set big goals for themselves. We believe all of our students are destined for great things.



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Looking for a fun, simple way to put a smile on a child's face? Participate in our Back to School Drive the week of July 24-28 and help us give the 1,000 kids who attend our after-school program the supplies they need to succeed this fall!

We will be collecting:

- Backpacks, ages 5-11
- Scissors, round point and regular
- Notebook paper (loose leaf)
- Ballpoint pens (blue or black)
- Glue, white liquid, 8 oz.
- Supply boxes (cigar type)
- Wire-bound notebooks
- Crayons and markers
- Pencils, No. 2
- 12 inch rulers
- Erasers
- Red lead pencils
- Dividers for binders



Donations can be dropped off at the Community Financial Center, 2600 West Stassney, Austin, TX 78745 on **Friday, July 28 between 9am-5pm.**

Email Jackie.Cuellar@foundcom.org to schedule a different drop-off time or visit FoundCom.org to donate funds online.

Need help preparing for college?



We've got you covered! Our College Hub program will host college readiness workshops for students and parents throughout the summer and fall. College Hub is a one-stop shop that provides college support services for low-income, nontraditional students. The free workshops will cover important information about enrolling in college, the financial aid process, scholarships, time management, and the transition to college life, among other topics.

If you have any questions, please call 512-610-4012. You can RSVP for our next workshop by visiting bit.ly/getstudentready.



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



Board of Directors

Tom Chmielewski, Chair	Dalton Duffie
Jewel Arrington	David Hart
Yvette Boatwright	Freddy Marichal
Perla Cavazos	Selina Serna
Andrew Clements	David Tandy
Kellee Coleman	Michelle Wallis
Adrianna Cuellar Rojas	Alicia Wong
Charles DiTullio	
Walter Moreau, Executive Director	

Foundation Communities provides attractive, affordable homes and free on-site 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 22 properties in Austin and North Texas.

YEAR-ROUND TAX PREP NOW OPEN

We offer FREE help for those who still need to file their taxes!

- Filing a previous year return
- Applying for and renewing an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)
- Responding to IRS letters
- Tax preparation if you work for yourself
- Correcting or amending an already filed return

Our Year-Round Tax Centers are located in North and South Austin until Oct 14.
For hours and locations, please visit communitytaxcenters.org or call 512-610-7374.



FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES UPDATES

Congratulations Free Minds Class of 2017! ▶

One of our favorite events of the year is the annual Free Minds graduation. This year's celebration was no exception. Each of the 14 graduates wowed us with their accomplishments and we can see bright futures ahead.
We asked three graduates to share what the class meant to them.

Our New Partnership with AISD

Exciting news! In partnership with Austin Independent School District, we will offer the District's only full-day pre-kindergarten program for three-year-olds in a community setting. The program will begin in the fall at our Sierra Vista Learning Center in South Austin. This partnership ensures high-quality teaching and learning coupled with access to our comprehensive on-site support services. Stay tuned for updates!



MexAustin Scholarship Winners Recognized

We awarded another round of MexAustin scholarships to 140 accomplished high school students at the end of June.



This is the second year for the scholarship, which we run in partnership with the Consulate General of Mexico. The \$1,000 scholarship aims to make college more accessible to first- or second-generation Mexican or other Latino immigrants. To learn more about the scholarship, please visit www.MexAustin.com.



"Free Minds handed me back my dream of becoming a writer."
— Janie Agüero

"Free Minds opened a tunnel of curiosity inside me. I've learned education isn't just about societal status. It nurtures our minds and souls, lets us dream and create."

— Brenda Reyna



"I joined Free Minds in hopes of building up self-confidence. I wanted to see if I could do it. Did I have the ability and stamina for school? Could I think on a college level? Now I know I can."
— Shameika Bunton