

Resident Gives Back as Tax Center Volunteer

Margine Barrera Sanchez's connection to us is unique – she is both a resident and a volunteer for our biggest community program. As one of our 500 trained and certified CommunityTax Center volunteers, Margine helps low-income families prepare and file their taxes for free.

Margine works full-time as a legal assistant and moved to Austin from Nicaragua three years ago with her daughter Grace. A good friend introduced Margine to Foundation Communities upon her arrival to Texas, and Margine and Grace have lived at our Sierra Vista community ever since.

Volunteering has always been important to Margine. At our tax centers, Margine is able to help families become more financially stable. She also draws parallels between herself and the clients she assists.

“I think many people are like me – they are trying to save money to achieve their goals,” Margine said. “I see myself reflected in the clients.”

Similar to many of the clients she meets with, Margine sends money to family members back home each month. Supporting multiple people on one income is challenging, but Margine said living at Sierra Vista has eased the burden. Her

1-bedroom apartment is affordable, and she is able to take advantage of the free support services offered on-site, including the food pantry, holiday program and health classes.

Margine is also actively working towards her own goals. Buying a house is at the top of her list. She enrolled in our money management class to create a financial plan and she is committed to making this dream a reality for her family.

Margine has worked incredibly hard to get to where she is today. Before moving to Austin, she earned an MBA and spent seven years working at the American embassy in Nicaragua. She left her home country in order to make a better life for herself and her daughter. And there are no signs that she is slowing down any time soon. Her trajectory is inspiring.



Over the next few months, Margine will spend her Saturdays at our Community Tax Centers helping local families take steps on their own paths to success.

For more information about our Community Tax Centers, please visit www.CommunityTaxCenters.org.

Make a Difference in a Child's Life

Want to help our kids succeed in school? Become a Learning Center volunteer and provide homework assistance or lead fun enrichment activities.



For more information, visit the “Get Involved” section of our website, www.Foundcom.org.

Thank You for Making the Holidays Bright!

Thanks to hundreds of community members, as well as 87 churches, businesses and civic groups, we wrapped up our best holiday program ever! It was truly magical for all of us – especially our residents.

“This might go down as the best Christmas we’ve ever had, and it wouldn’t be possible without your help. We are never going to forget this moment and we will never forget you.” – Resident, age 12

We matched 349 families with generous holiday sponsors and received gifts for many more through our holiday drive. We also raised \$22,000—more than double last year’s total – to purchase additional wish list items and provide emergency assistance funds.

We are deeply thankful to you for making the holiday season so special for your neighbors.



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Foundation Communities provides attractive, 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 19 properties in Austin and North Texas.

Welcome to Homestead!

We began 2016 by opening the doors at Homestead Oaks, our newest family community on Slaughter Lane. We absolutely love seeing this community come to life. Residents will continue to move in over the next few weeks. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for Homestead stories!



Foundation Communities Updates



Mark Your Calendars: Amplify Austin March 8-9

Amplify Austin is just weeks away! We can't wait to participate in this citywide day of giving again and we hope you'll join us. Stay tuned for details.

College Financial Aid: We Can Help!

Our free Cash for College program helps students with the financial aid process, including FAFSA and TAFSA preparation. The Texas financial aid deadline is March 15 so it's important to get started soon. Please call 512-610-4012 for more information.

Apply Now for MexAustin Scholarship

We are excited to announce the launch of the MexAustin Scholarship. In collaboration with the Consulate General of Mexico, we plan to award \$1,000 scholarships to 140 college-bound students who are first- or second-generation Mexican or other Latino immigrants. To learn more about eligibility requirements and to access the application, please visit www.MexAustin.com. The application deadline is April 30.



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Free Tax Prep & Filing!

- Free to households up to \$50K/yr
- IRS-certified volunteer preparers
- 6 convenient locations
- Appointment or walk-in
- Fast refund with e-file



For locations and hours call 2-1-1 or visit CommunityTaxCenters.org