



IMPACT

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Iraqi Family Finds Comforts of Home at Sierra Ridge

It is hard to imagine having to say goodbye to the friends, neighbors and home you love. That is exactly what the Gailani family were forced to do when they left Iraq in 2011 as refugees. The Gailanis are part of our Children's Home Initiative (CHI), an intensive support program for extremely low-income and formerly homeless families, and they live at our Sierra Ridge community in South Austin.

Salwan found a job as a dishwasher at a hotel and was making only slightly above minimum wage. The family struggled to adjust to their new life in the United States — everything, including the language, was unfamiliar and the cost of living was high.

Salwan and his wife, Sawsan, eventually learned about Foundation Communities through local refugee advocates and friends. Now that the Gailanis have a safe, stable place to call home and access to an on-site case manager and other support services, the entire family has made great strides.

Through the CHI program, the Gailanis participated in financial counseling and have been able to open a savings account and purchase their first car. Salwan, who still works seven days a week at a hotel, said this has relieved some of the family's financial strain. The family has also relied on their case manager to

assist them with paying bills online, filling out important documents and making doctor's appointments.

"Our case manager helps with everything," Sawsan said.



Two of the Gailani children attend nearby St. Elmo Elementary School and come to our Learning Center to do their homework and play outside with their friends. All of the children are excelling at learning English and flourishing in school.

The Gailanis' progress aligns with the overarching success of our CHI families. Of the 45 families that graduated from the 18-month program this year, 87% fulfilled a financial literacy component and 98% of the children in the program improved or maintained their academic performance.

Despite being uprooted from their country, the Gailani family is remarkably optimistic and hopeful. Salwan and Sawsan welcomed their fourth child, Saife, just a few months ago, and they envision a bright future for him and their family as a whole. Salwan plans to buy a home one day, Sawsan is actively working towards earning her GED and the kids all have dreams of their own.

For more information about our CHI program, please visit <http://foundcom.org/housing/at-risk-homeless-families/>.

Volunteer Spotlight: Community Tax Centers

Ian Tennant said his time as a Community Tax Center volunteer has been an eye-opening experience for him. "I'm often reminded when meeting with clients, like first-generation college students, just how important this free service is for people," Ian said. "It can be a domino effect for positivity in their lives, especially as it relates to personal finance."

We are currently recruiting volunteers for our Community Tax Centers. Each year, we rely on 600 volunteers to provide free tax preparation for over 20,000 families.



To get involved with our Community Tax Centers, please visit <http://foundcom.org/volunteer>.

Brighten the Holidays for Local Families

Want to bring holiday cheer to our residents who won't be able to fulfill their wish lists on their own?

Here are two ways you can make a big difference this holiday season:

1. Sponsor a Foundation Communities family for the holidays. It's a rewarding group service activity! Please visit www.FoundCom.org for more information and to complete your sponsor form.



2. Make a holiday donation. You can donate online at www.FoundCom.org and we'll go holiday shopping for you!

Please visit www.FoundCom.org for additional details or contact Charlotte Bumbulis at charlotte.bumbulis@foundcom.org or 512-610-4008.



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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 18 properties in Austin and North Texas.



Holiday Assistance

*Help a family in need
this Holiday Season*

See other side for details and visit FoundCom.org to give!

THANK YOU

Thanks to your support, 2015 was our best year yet. We opened our doors at Capital Studios to 135 residents, including 47 formerly homeless veterans, in the heart of downtown Austin. We moved forward with the development of 6 new communities. And we grew and strengthened each of our core support programs.

Here are some highlights:

EDUCATION



Our on-site Community Learning Centers serve more than 700 kids. The students who attend our after-school and summer learning programs have an average 3.53 GPA.

FINANCIAL STABILITY



Our free Community Tax Centers filed over 20,000 tax returns for low-income families, generating \$36 million in refunds. Families count on these refunds to put food on the table, pay bills and save for their children's education.

HEALTH



Since 2013, our Insure Central Texas program has helped more than 12,000 individuals enroll in affordable health insurance plans and find peace of mind for the future.

DONATE

In January, we will welcome 140 families to Homestead Oaks in southeast Austin. As we build more communities all over town and expand our services to reach more people, we need your support. When choosing your year-end giving priorities, please consider making a contribution to us. Your gift will help us continue to provide more than just a roof over people's heads.

You can donate online by visiting www.FoundCom.org. Thank you from all of us at Foundation Communities.