Tax Prep Leads Resident to Fresh New Start

When Joyce Guagliardo first visited our Community Tax Centers a few years ago, she lived in less than ideal circumstances.

Joyce was in and out of the hospital and for a while she was homeless, sleeping on other people’s couches or living in her car. Years of serious physical and mental health issues made it impossible for her to maintain a full-time job.

Joyce’s family had always prided themselves on their work ethic. “I had never relied on anyone for anything,” she said. It was hard for her to give up work and remain optimistic about the future given her health challenges.

Since being introduced to Foundation Communities, Joyce said that she finally feels like she’s moving forward again.

Most significantly, Joyce and her husband Lawrence moved into Buckingham Place Duplexes, one of our family communities in south Austin. As residents, the Guagliardos have participated in many of our financial stability programs, learning how to cut their utility bills in half and taking our money management classes.

Earlier this year, Joyce returned to our Community Tax Centers and met with long-time volunteer Sid Stuewe. She cried when she found out she was going to meet with Sid because she felt relieved to be in such capable hands.

Every time she visits the Community Tax Centers, Joyce said our volunteers are friendly and knowledgeable. “I’m not in the dark about anything,” she said.

Joyce said she is incredibly grateful to Foundation Communities and to all of the dedicated volunteers she has met over the years.

We rely on over 2,000 volunteers annually to carry out the programs that serve our residents and neighbors.

In 2014, volunteers at our Community Tax Centers prepared more than 20,000 tax returns, resulting in over $36 million in refunds for hard-working, local families. We hope to assist even more families during the 2015 tax season and we need you! As a Community Tax Centers volunteer, you’ll truly make a difference for folks like Joyce.

For more information about volunteering with our Community Tax Centers, contact Jackie Blair at Jackie.Blair@foundcom.org or 512-610-7377.

Brighten the Holidays for Local Families

Want to help us 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 in-kind gift items to our holiday drive or donate funds online at www.FoundCom.org and we’ll go holiday shopping for you!

If you are interested in getting involved with our Holiday Assistance Program, please visit www.FoundCom.org for details or contact Charlotte Bumbulis, charlotte.bumbulis@foundcom.org or 512-610-4008.

Need help with health care?

Come see our trained volunteers for FREE to:

- Understand your health insurance options
- Apply for help paying for insurance

For locations visit: www.InsureCentralTX.org

Drop by, no appointment needed!
Dear Friends,

What a year! Soon we will welcome 135 residents home to Capital Studios, our new community in downtown Austin. Capital Studios has truly been a labor of love and exemplifies our commitment to a proven model of attractive, affordable housing plus support services.

At Capital Studios, residents will have access to our signature education, financial stability and health programs right at their doorstep.

We are incredibly proud of Capital Studios, but there’s plenty of work left to do to provide deeply affordable homes for the thousands of families and individuals still in need in our beloved city. Working parents with kids, homeless veterans, seniors, people with disabilities. People from all walks of life who make this city a vibrant place to live. People who deserve to call Austin home.

Will you help us grow and serve more of our neighbors in need over the next year?

We look forward to opening Homestead Oaks, our newest family community in southwest Austin, in late 2015. Homestead will include an on-site Learning Center and, like all of our communities, will be built to the highest of green standards. We are also excited about developing new communities on South Lamar and near the Lakeline train station, as well as adding additional apartments to our current communities on William Cannon and in Oak Hill, over the next two years.

We work hard to raise the capital funds we need to build the buildings, but funding for the services that truly transform people's lives depends on supporters like you.

As you choose your year-end giving priorities, please consider making a contribution to us. Your gift will help us grow in meaningful and impactful ways. You can donate online by visiting www.FoundCom.org.

We can't do our work without you. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Walter Moreau, Executive Director