

## Eldest Son Finds Home for Family at Sierra Vista

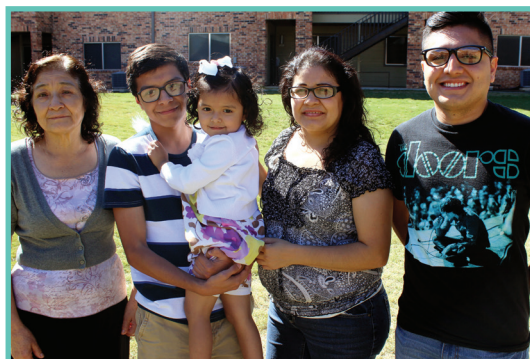
Shouldering the weight of his family's well-being hasn't diminished Kevin Moreno's spirits. This impressive 20-year-old is living out his dreams of working in the medical profession, while also serving as the primary provider for his two younger siblings, mother and grandmother. Kevin and his family moved into our Sierra Vista community last October after spending years sharing a studio apartment. Living in that tiny space was stressful for the entire family and it was Kevin who sought out a solution.

**"Finding a place to live has been the hardest challenge for my family," Kevin said. "Moving to Sierra Vista was a huge relief."**

The Morenos are part of our Children's Home Initiative (CHI). CHI is an intensive support program for extremely low-income families with young children. The rent CHI families pay is even further reduced and they receive on-site case management, employment assistance, and access to our education, financial stability and health programs.

Kevin was able to get a job at St. David's Hospital as a patient care technician by enrolling in a training program he found with the help of his case manager. He is passionate about his new job and makes more than he did working in retail.

Thinking about what's best for his family has been Kevin's main focus over the last four years. When he was 16, Kevin's father was incarcerated and it suddenly became his responsibility to step up.



Kevin worked long hours at various retail stores as a high school student. He successfully graduated but his family's struggles didn't ease up. His mother was pregnant with his younger sister when his father left and Kevin didn't want his sister to grow up without space to grow and play. He researched their options and applied to Foundation Communities. The family soon found their home at Sierra Vista.

Along with the support he received to secure a higher-paying job, Kevin said that staff and volunteers have taught him how to better manage his money and save for unexpected events. His siblings are also thriving. His younger brother, Dylan, is doing well as a student at McCallum High School and his younger sister, Avia, is enrolled in our free pre-literacy

program which prepares students for kindergarten.

Kevin plans to move up the ladder at St. David's and has high hopes for his younger siblings. He credits his mother and his grandmother for their strength and faith in him. Just as he continues to do for his family, Kevin wants to take care of people in whatever way he can in his professional life.

**"I believe I have a big heart," Kevin said. We couldn't agree more.**

To learn more about our CHI program, please visit [www.FoundCom.org/housing/at-risk-homeless-families/](http://www.FoundCom.org/housing/at-risk-homeless-families/)

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT *Community Tax Centers*



Tax season is almost here and we are recruiting volunteers for our Community Tax Centers! Every year we rely on 600 volunteers to provide free tax preparation for over 20,000 hard-working low-income families in the Austin area.

Sarah McClearly, a current volunteer, said her experience has taught her that there is no such thing as a typical client or a typical shift. That keeps it interesting and has allowed Sarah to make a real difference for the clients she serves.

**"I can promise you that after the first couple of shifts, you will totally get more out of volunteering than you ever imagined possible," she said. "And I promise that once you commit, you will never regret it."**

To volunteer with our Community Tax Centers, please visit [www.FoundCom.org/get-involved/volunteer/](http://www.FoundCom.org/get-involved/volunteer/)

## BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO LOCAL FAMILIES



**Looking for a way to brighten the holidays for families in need?**

Many of our residents won't be able to fulfill their wish lists on their own, but you can help. Here are two ways you can make a meaningful impact this holiday season:



• **Sponsor a Foundation Communities family for the holidays.**

It's a rewarding group service activity! Please visit [www.FoundCom.org](http://www.FoundCom.org) for more information and to complete your sponsor form.

• **Make a holiday donation.** You can donate online at [www.FoundCom.org](http://www.FoundCom.org) and we'll go holiday shopping for you!

If you have questions, please contact Meghan Hein at [Meghan.Hein@foundcom.org](mailto:Meghan.Hein@foundcom.org) or 512-610-4008.



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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 19 properties in Austin and North Texas.



*Help a Family in Need This Season. See reverse side for details.*

## Foundation Communities Updates

### THANK YOU!

For us, this past year has been all about growth. Thanks to your continued support, we opened our doors at Homestead Oaks to 140 new families and welcomed the students there to our 11th on-site Community Learning Center. Homestead is beautiful and bustling with activity. We also are in the process of leasing up three new communities — Bluebonnet Studios, Lakeline Station and Live Oak Trails. We are eager to give 1,000 more residents the keys to their new home. In addition to building more affordable housing in neighborhoods all over Austin, we have also increased the capacity of our critical support services. Here are some highlights:



#### EDUCATION:

Our on-site Community Learning Centers now serve 1,000 kids year-round. The students who attend our after-school and summer learning programs have an average 3.54 GPA.



#### FINANCIAL STABILITY:

Our free Community Tax Centers filed nearly 20,000 tax returns for low-income families this year, generating \$33.5 million in refunds. Hardworking families count on these refunds to put food on the table, pay bills and save for their children's future.



#### HEALTH:

Since 2014, our Insure Central Texas program has helped more than 17,000 individuals enroll in affordable health insurance plans for the first time and find peace of mind.

**With your support, we will continue to grow and serve more people. Please consider making a contribution to us at year's end.  
You can donate online at [www.FoundCom.org](http://www.FoundCom.org). Thank you from all of us at Foundation Communities.**