

# IMPACT

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# Capital Studios: A Home in the Heart of Austin

Capital Studios, the first affordable housing in downtown Austin in 45 years, is set to open soon. Later this year, 135 individuals will move in to our brand-new community in the heart of the city we all love.

For our newest residents, Capital Studios will be a fresh start. Musician and current Foundation Communities resident Evan Johns said finding us made him feel like the luckiest man alive.

Evan toured the world playing music and earned a Grammy nomination. He moved to Austin and cemented his status as a guitar legend. But decades of being surrounded by free alcohol and drugs destroyed his bones, liver and kidneys. Evan sought treatment for his addiction but had little money and nowhere to go when it was time to leave.

Like many of our future Capital Studios residents, Evan would have been homeless without Foundation Communities. Now Evan

spends his days doing what he loves - writing songs and playing guitar.

"I'm deeply grateful for getting a second chance at life," Evan said.

We worked hard to overcome the challenges Capital Studios presented and are especially grateful to the early and energetic support of the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association and the Downtown Austin Alliance.

As with all of our new communities, Capital Studios required neighborhood support, as well as citywide voter approval of affordable housing bonds, in order for us to secure state funding to build it.

Capital Studios will be home to our signature education, financial stability, and healthy living programs. Residents will have access to dedicated case

managers, college prep classes, integrated health care, and one-on-one financial coaching, among other opportunities to transform their lives. We rely on the continued support of generous donors like you to fund these vital onsite services.

We can't wait to welcome our newest residents to Capital Studios. We expect their stories, like Evan's, will fill our hearts with hope and propel us forward. There's

plenty of work left to do to provide deeply affordable homes for those who need it most in Austin. Capital Studios moves us in the right direction.

Thank you to all of you for joining us on the journey to build this beautiful new community.



#### **Volunteer with** Insure Central Texas!



Do you want to help local families enroll in affordable health insurance for the first time and find peace of mind for the future? Sign up to serve as an Insure Central Texas volunteer!

Our amazing volunteers have already enrolled more than 5,000 Central Texans, and we hope the next enrollment period (Nov. 2014 – Feb. 2015) will be an even greater success.

For more information on volunteering with Insure Central Texas, contact Gwen Moore at gwen.moore@foundcom.org or 512-610-7967. You can also visit www.lnsureCentralTX.org.

## Resident Voter Registration Drive

An important effort is underway at all 14 of our Austin communities to register residents to vote. We want our residents' voices to be heard in the upcoming election, and the dedicated volunteers who are helping residents get registered do too! Our residents are also playing an active role.

Bill Lamar, a Garden Terrace resident, has been deputized by the county as a voter registrar and is working hard to register his friends and neighbors.



"It's a great service to everybody," Bill said.
"Being able to vote is a constitutional right and we should take advantage of that to make our voices heard."



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Foundation Communities provides first class, 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 17 properties in Austin and North Texas.

#### **More Homes for Austin Families**

We've got big news! We recently were awarded \$30 million in state funding to build three new affordable housing communities in Austin. We look forward to creating 293 service-rich homes for thousands of working parents, kids, veterans, seniors and people with disabilities in the years ahead.

# Foundation Communities **Updates**



## **Homestead Groundbreaking**

Construction is underway at Homestead, our newest family community in southwest Austin. We expect to welcome 140 families to this beautiful new site at Brodie and Slaughter, complete with a Learning Center, at the end of 2015. Stay tuned for updates!

#### **Back to School Drive Sets New Record**

ALL of the kids who attend our after-school program were set for the first day of school this year thanks to the success of our Back to School Drive! The campaign brought in nearly 700 backpacks and more than \$9,000 in online donations for school supplies. A big, big thank you to everyone, including the 16 local businesses and churches who participated!





## Thank you Wells Fargo!

Thanks to Wells Fargo for awarding us an UrbanLIFT Grant in the amount of \$298,600. With this generous support, we have been able to transform our Trails at Vintage Creek community in north Austin by adding new nature stations, playground equipment and landscaping for residents to enjoy.