

The Little Program with the Big Impact

Irene grew up in a big family in the tiny town of Hereford, Texas, where she says there are more cows than people. When the local economy dried up and her family moved to Austin, Irene was in the middle of her senior year of high school. This was tough, but Irene understood what she had to do. She took a job at the HEB and graduated a few months later, becoming one of the first in the family to finish high school.

Soon she was able to get a higher paying job to help support her family while saving money for college. But things took a turn when she fell ill and had to give up on her dreams.

As more bills and responsibilities popped up in her life, Irene's focus shifted away from school. She got married and had a baby and later was needed to care for her parents and in-laws when they got sick.

But Irene never stopped dreaming of going back to college. Her husband knew this and one day handed her a flyer for Foundation Communities' Free Minds Program. He said, "This is absolutely free. You should apply."

Free Minds is a Foundation Communities program designed to get low-income adults on a college track. It is a free one-year class in the humanities taught by UT and ACC professors, with childcare and dinner provided.

Irene was accepted and went on to excel in the program. "I found out that I could do college work. This gave me a brand

new confidence. It made me realize that if I wanted something, I can go out and work hard to get it!"

And that's exactly what Irene has done. She now has her Associate's in Liberal Arts from ACC and has encouraged her entire family to follow suit. Today her husband, daughter and 15-year old son are all enrolled at ACC with classes starting in the fall.

"My mindset, my being, my world—and future generations of my family—have been changed by this one little community program, Free Minds. I thank Foundation Communities for that."



Back to School DRIVE



SUCCESS!

We like to dream big around here, and so do the kids in our after-school program. By donating backpacks and school supplies, you helped more kids reach those dreams. Thank you so much for your generosity.



VOLUNTEER 360

Wednesday, August 8, 6–7:30 PM

Join us at our annual volunteer fair. Learn how you can make a deep impact in our community. Please bring your friends!

Sierra Vista Learning Center,
4320 South Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78745.
Please RSVP to Meghan.Hein@FoundCom.org



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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 23 properties in Austin and North Texas.

The Jordan at Mueller—underway!

A great place for our 132 families to raise their kids.

- 2018—Slab is poured.
- 2019—Families move in.



This fall: the most important affordable housing bond election in Austin's history. We need your help.

Family Home Crisis



Austin is in the middle of a housing crisis. Real estate prices and rent throughout the region have skyrocketed leaving thousands without an affordable place to live.

That's not okay.

We appreciate the Austin City Council putting the AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONDS on the ballot this fall. Now we can all VOTE to give more hard-working families a home they can afford right here in our beloved city.

- Early voting starts Oct. 9, 2018
- Election Day is Nov 6, 2018

Learn more about how you can help us get the bonds passed by visiting:

FoundCom.org

