

Affordable Housing Bonds Change Lives

Gloria Kerr is thankful. "There is nothing more important to me than providing a safe and stable home for my two sons," she said. "I feel very blessed to be living at Foundation Communities."

But Gloria didn't always feel she had a safe and secure home. She remembers her childhood years as tumultuous. Her mother remarried after Gloria's father left, but Gloria's new step dad made their lives miserable. The only way her mom knew to escape was to move far away - leaving Gloria behind.

Gloria moved in with her grandmother who was already raising two of her cousins. She knows her grandmother tried her best, but Gloria missed her mother and struggled with feelings of abandonment. She felt she didn't belong anywhere and became convinced that her life would only be one disappointment after another.

Then, Gloria met the man that would become her children's father. He seemed strong and reliable, and gave her hope that they could make a life together. Together they had two sons and despite some hiccups, she was happy.

But life took a turn when she still had small babies to care for. Gloria discovered that her partner was out on the streets selling drugs. She was devastated that he would put their family in that kind of danger.

She immediately moved back in with her mother who had returned to town, but that house proved to be unsafe, too. It leaked carbon monoxide and once caught fire due to bad wiring. Gloria felt stuck and couldn't see a way out of the tunnel she was in.

Then she discovered Foundation Communities and Cardinal Point Apartments. When Gloria first saw the community she thought, "Here we go again. Another dead end. I will never be able to afford to live in a place this beautiful."

What she didn't know was that Cardinal Point was built using money from the Affordable Housing Bond that Austin voters passed to help families just like Gloria's.

She soon found out that the rent was well within her budget – AND that it came with amazing services to help her get her life back on track.

Now, Gloria meets weekly with her case manager to work on her goals, and sees a financial coach to budget and save. She has a parent advocate to help her be the best mom she can be, and she gets help with groceries from the on-site food pantry. With all the support and stability, Gloria has been able find a great job working nearby.

Best of all, she feels like she's part of a community where she belongs. "My neighbors can relate to my life and understand where I've been. We are always there for each other," she said. "But nothing compares to the peaceful feeling that my boys and I are finally safe. We are going to be ok. And for that I am extremely grateful."



VOTE YAY **PROP A**
AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND

There is a lot at stake in this year's election.

If we don't invest in affordable housing programs now, only the most wealthy people will be able to afford to live here. Vote Yay for Prop A. Vote for an Austin more of our neighbors can afford.

Early Voting: Oct. 22–Nov. 2
Election Day: Nov. 6
More Info: FoundCom.org/vote

Volunteer with Insure Central Texas

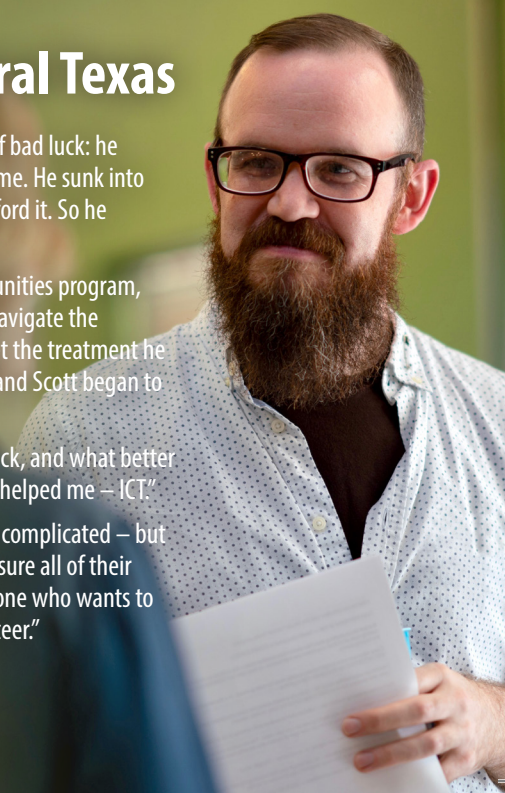
Circumstances outside of Scott's control caused a perfect storm of bad luck: he lost his apartment, his job, and his girlfriend in a short span of time. He sunk into a depression and needed medical help. But Scott just couldn't afford it. So he continued to descend into darkness.

After being referred to Insure Central Texas, a Foundation Communities program, he was quickly matched with an ICT volunteer. She was able to navigate the marketplace health insurance enrollment so Scott was able to get the treatment he desperately needed. Before long – life began to look brighter – and Scott began to feel excited about his future again.

"This whole experience made me realize that I wanted to give back, and what better way than to become a volunteer for the very same program that helped me – ICT"

Scott was intimidated at first, thinking that health care was very complicated – but soon became comfortable. "The staff do an amazing job making sure all of their volunteers are very well trained," he explained. "I encourage anyone who wants to truly make a difference in someone's life to become an ICT volunteer."

For more information on how you can volunteer with ICT, contact Eliana.Brant@FoundCom.Org





3036 South First Street
Austin, TX 78704
512.447.2026
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.

Coming soon: Waterloo Terrace

Our wait lists have never been longer. That's why we are so excited to break ground on Waterloo Terrace next year and open our doors in 2020. This community will be home to 132 low wage workers, veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities. Waterloo Terrace will be located in Northwest Austin near the Domain, with easy access to St. David's Medical Center, public transportation, job opportunities and open green spaces. Stay tuned for updates!



School—full speed ahead.

Foundation Communities is very proud of our after-school academic programs for students offered as soon as their school year starts - for free and right on site in 12 of our family communities. More than 1,000 children participate and receive homework assistance, enrichment activities, physical exercise – and lots and lots of encouragement. Last semester our children had a 3.3 GPA and like their predecessors, many are expected to be the first in their families to attend college. Full speed ahead!

