



IMPACT

January-February 2019

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foundcom.org

Tax Services Help Mom Imagine a Brighter Future

Christina spent years working multiple jobs to provide for her children. She struggled to make ends meet and they fought to keep a roof over their heads, staying with friends and family whenever possible. At times, they lived out of their car, and she prayed daily for answers and clear direction with hope that was fading quickly.

Then she was connected to Foundation Communities.

"It was a godsend!" Christina said. "When I was told about all of the services, it sounded too good to be true!"

She was informed about assistance at the Community Tax Centers and decided to try it. She is now extremely grateful for the volunteers who helped complete her taxes, which were muddled due to years of homelessness.

"If I had not come here and utilized the tax services, I wouldn't have known it was possible to file an itemized return after gathering everything over the years," she explained.

"The cost for preparing my taxes elsewhere continually paralyzed me and prevented me from taking action to get them done."

Growing up in an unstable environment compelled Christina to strive for stability. She was one of 17 children, many living with her parents in a house without running water, electricity or a phone. Competing for food at dinner was traumatic, so she decided to quietly skip meals and do without. Home life was filled with turmoil, and the lack of parental supervision only allowed this problem to go unnoticed. She fell in love and married young to escape the traumatic environment and began building a family, having 4 children in eight years.

"My children brought meaning to my life and opened my eyes," Christina said.

Christina only wanted safety and security for her family. Her husband would become violent when he couldn't sort out his feelings, which

landed him in jail. Christina was left to provide for her children, with very little support. The stability she had been craving seemed to have slipped away.

Finding Foundation Communities allowed her to feel hopeful in a way she hadn't in years.

When she learned she would be receiving a tax refund, she was ecstatic. Christina tells people daily about the Community Tax Centers. With six locations, people earning up to \$55,000 can have their taxes completed for free.

"The volunteers are amazing. They're patient, thorough, and professional" she said. "Because of their help my family is able to believe stability is within reach. It's empowering and invigorating. I thank God that I found this program."

You can learn more about our Community Tax Centers by calling 2-1-1 or visiting CommunityTaxCenters.org



SUCCEED Supports Nontraditional College Students

More than 100 students are expected to gain support and resources in 2019-20 through our SUCCEED Program, which assists nontraditional students as they pursue college degrees. It is open to applicants with an income up to \$55,000. SUCCEED provides coaching, financial aid assistance and college guidance. Those who qualify receive matching funds to help pay for tuition. Participants define their journey, staff and coaches guide them on the pathway to education.

For more information about the program, visit FoundCom.org/College-Hub.

4 FACTS: About Our Learning Centers



1,000: Students participating in programs where they dream big and succeed in school!

720: Hours students can participate year-round in after-school learning and fun enrichment activities.

13: Learning Centers we have up and running – number 14 opens later this year!

3.3: The average GPA our learning center students earned in school.

Help our students keep their grades up! We are seeking Youth Program Assistants who are over 18 and excited to work with students afterschool.

Learn more: FoundCom.org/Job



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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.



NEED HELP WITH YOUR TAXES?

- Community Tax Centers free to households up to \$55K/yr
- IRS-certified volunteer preparers
- 6 convenient locations
- Appointment or walk-in
- Fast refund with e-file

For locations and hours call 2-1-1 or visit CommunityTaxCenters.org



The Jordan is on target to open later this year, welcoming 132 low-income families, including 14 who were formerly homeless. The Jordan is in close proximity to jobs, grocery stores, retail centers, public transportation, Dell Children's Hospital and lots of kid/pet-friendly outdoor spaces. Like our other communities, The Jordan is being constructed following the highest of green standards and will house our 14th Learning Center providing child and adult academic programming all year long.

**Learn more about The Jordan
at FoundCom.org/future**



**I Live Here
I Give Here**

**AMPLIFY AUSTIN!
Feb 28 - Mar 1**

Please donate to Foundation Communities during the citywide online campaign – Amplify Austin! More than 700 area nonprofits will participate in this local day of giving. We hope you, your friends, family and colleagues will join us and support hard-working, low-income families and their dreams for a brighter future.

Donate online at AmplifyATX.org