

A Second Chance to Serve

The day before his 58th birthday, Veteran Tvan Bryant moved into his new home at Bluebonnet Studios. To him it was a gift from God.

"Life feels different now that I have a roof over my head," he said. "I have my own place. My own bed, my own kitchen. I'm never hungry anymore."

Tvan has not always been so lucky. During his life, there have been several times when he didn't have a place to call home. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon for many veterans living in Austin. The VA directed Tvan to Foundation Communities, where his life turned around.

Bluebonnet Studios is one of our six communities solely for single adults. Free wraparound support services are available on site to help residents like Tvan navigate life and be successful.

During high school, he was an average student who was great at sports. When given the choice to join the military or attend college on sports scholarships, he chose to enlist in the U.S. Army. Through his travels he met and married an "Army brat," and they had a daughter. But, after five years, the marriage ended. This was a hard blow for Tvan.

He moved back to Texas seeking a fresh start, but depression led him to drugs, which sadly led him to prison. Tvan lost contact with his daughter and his family.

After he was released, he knew he had to make drastic changes. Today, he is a self-professed addict and alcoholic in recovery for many years. Every day he works to maintain his sobriety, while also managing PTSD from traumas he's experienced throughout life.

"I don't think I would be as successful if I didn't live here. Besides having a case manager, who works right in my building, we have a nurse who regularly visits Bluebonnet," Tvan explained. "This makes a huge difference for me - just knowing someone is there to check on me and make sure I'm okay."

Other health programs available to Tvan are stress management classes and yoga classes.

"You really feel like someone cares about you," Tvan mused. "And, that alone is a huge help with my stress and anxiety."

With all the positive changes Tvan's made in his life, he didn't hesitate when Foundation Communities asked him to be Bluebonnet Studios' Community Engagement Specialist.

"This is a great job! I get to help my neighbors."

Tvan sets up for special events, hosts movie nights, works with volunteers and assists with the on-site Food Pantry.

"Foundation Communities has really changed my life, in more ways than I can describe," Tvan reported. "I honestly had gotten to the point where I didn't want to even be around people. I was just too uncomfortable. But, with my new job, I have to communicate, to connect with the other residents. I get to be of service again. And, I can do it, because I have the support I need right here where I live. I feel healthy and very content. I know I'm a blessed man."



Serve SUPPER, Feel Super!

If you've ever wanted to make a difference while bonding with your friends, family, colleagues or church community, we have a great opportunity for you to give back to others!

Sign up to be a Supper Club volunteer and you will get to know our residents while serving them nutritious family-style meals. We ask groups to commit to a minimum of 4-6 meals throughout the year.



Sign up at foundcom.org/get-involved

EARTH DAY FLOWERS at Daffodil Apartments

On Earth Day our Daffodil Learning Center students had something to celebrate. The children helped plan and build a garden, which will foster their connection to nature and help them learn about sustainability.

Foundation Communities Sustainability Team collaborated with the nonprofit, Raasin in the Sun, on the project. A student-designed mural was painted on the garden's shed and the plants are now growing!





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.

TAX SEASON A HUGE SUCCESS!

With the help of more than 600 volunteers, we prepared nearly 20,000 tax returns during the tax season. Those returns resulted in \$35 million in refunds and saved our clients an estimated \$5 million in tax preparation fees!

In addition, we hit a major milestone this season – we've prepared more than 250,000 returns that have resulted in nearly \$400 million in refunds since the program began!

Thank you to the volunteers who helped put some money back in the pockets of Central Texans!



I Live Here
I Give Here®

\$150K+ raised
for Foundation
Communities

Top 10 of
participating
nonprofits

Amplify Austin

Thank You for Your Amplify Support

Amplify Austin 2019 was an exuberant 24-hours of fundraising, and it was a resounding success! With the help of our dedicated Team Leaders, tireless supporters and community donors, we were able to raise more than \$150,000 and made it into the top 10 of the 700+ participating nonprofits. We are so grateful for everyone who donated! **Thank you so much for your support during this citywide day of giving!**

We would also like to say a very special thank you to **St. David's Foundation** for providing additional matching funds, which will help us serve more people through our proven model of housing + support services.

Together we can continue to keep Austin the wonderfully diverse and vibrant city we all love to call home!



WATERLOO TERRACE GROUNDBREAKING!

Construction on our newest community, Waterloo Terrace, is underway! Set to open in 2020, Waterloo Terrace will be located in Northwest Austin very close to St. David's North Austin Medical Center, grocery stores, hike and bike trails and job opportunities.

This community will be home to 132 low-wage workers, veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities. Stay tuned for updates!