



Mission Plaza
Austin, TX

IMPACT

Jul-Aug 2020

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Family Finds Hope After Pandemic Hits Home

Foundation Communities residents are resilient. But the pandemic has disrupted every household, leaving many with health concerns, reduced wages or loss of work altogether. Even Cedric Turner, an optimist by nature, found himself worried.

"Ask anybody, ask my wife, I'm a very positive person," he says "But the first week of my hours being cut, I was like 'What am I gonna do?'"

Working as a Supervisor/Trainer for Delta, Cedric and his crew were servicing up to 30 flights a day before the pandemic hit. When airlines faced new restrictions, Delta reduced flights through Austin.

"We're contractors so the more flights that come in, the more we get paid," he explains. "So we weren't getting paid that much, because it was down to five flights a day."

Cedric had accepted the job with the goal of supporting his growing family. Just 10 months earlier, he and his wife Jenny had welcomed a son, Caleb Joshua.

"It really scared me to think about paying my bills, being kicked out of our apartment and just the spiral effect. I really was worried. Like, 'What am I going to do to take care of my family?'"

Soon Cedric learned that Foundation Communities would not evict residents for lack of payment due to the pandemic and would allow them to repay missed rent over six months. It was welcome news, but left him wondering how he would come up with the funds.

Then a call from his Property Manager brought a wave of relief. Cedric found out that his rent had been covered by donations to the Emergency Assistance Fund.

"When I got the call that my rent has been paid, I was like, really speechless," he recalls.

Thanks to an outpouring of support, Cedric was one of hundreds of FC residents to receive rent assistance since April.

"It just touched my heart that during this tough time there are people in this world that want to help their neighbor out," Cedric continues. **"I'm so thankful."**



"Foundation Communities is also deeply grateful," says Executive Director Walter Moreau. "We want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all the generous supporters who have donated to our Emergency Assistance Fund, helping us continue to provide housing, food pantries and other support services for our resilient residents."

SUPPORT OUR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:
foundcom.org/donate-emergency-fund

Virtual Tax Help A Success

When the pandemic began, our Prosper Center teamed up with GetYourRefund.org to provide virtual tax help appointments. Together, our Tax Help staff and volunteers prepared more than **12,000 tax returns** by the extended deadline of July 15. Those completed tax returns made thousands of community members eligible for federal stimulus funds.



Thank you to our Tax Help Teams!

GROUNDBREAKING: LAUREL CREEK



Construction has started on our newest community, Laurel Creek. Onsite crews are making progress while practicing social distancing. Laurel Creek will be located on North Lamar, near West Braker. Set to open in late 2021, this property will provide affordable housing and onsite services to 88 low-income families.

Foundation Communities
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Austin, TX 78704

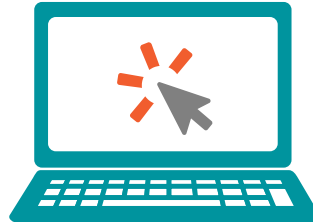


VIRTUAL SUMMER LEARNING

Right now, our Learning Centers would typically be filled with the sounds of our Summer Learning Programs. This year is different, but our commitment to students remains the same.

In June, we launched our first Virtual Summer Learning Program!

Together, we're working to keep kids engaged, prevent the summer learning slide and prepare students for the coming school year.



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Donate at foundcom.org/back-to-school-drive

Our Back to School Drive supports about 900 students who attend free, onsite after-school programs at our Learning Centers. This year, we're counting on virtual support from community members like you. Nearly 70% of students in our Virtual Summer Learning program are in need of reliable computers and internet access. Together, we can provide the technology they need to have a successful at-home learning experience!

Renewed Focus on Racial Equity

We are committed to equity, inclusion and respect for all people. We stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and demand an end to racial injustice. Our organization strives to alleviate the inequities in housing, education, health and financial stability. Yet, we recognize that we are not immune from furthering institutional racism.

That's why we are reviewing policies like criminal screening, protocols for calling police, and staffing practices. With guidance from our newly-formed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, we will identify specific ways we could make FC a more just and equitable organization. We hope that you will help hold us accountable.



512.447.2026
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Foundation Communities provides attractive, 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 24 properties in Austin and North Texas.



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