

Supported Employment Program Feeds Souls During Pandemic

It's Tuesday morning, and four dedicated men are organizing a shipment of food just delivered to Skyline Terrace from the Central Texas Food Bank. It's step one of a weekly program in which Foundation Communities (FC) residents pack and deliver healthy food directly to the doorsteps of other residents in seven of FC's apartment buildings for single adults.


"Residents don't have to go stand in no lines. The food comes right to their doors," said Food Pantry attendee Larry Collins.

The men also receive payment for their work as part of FC's Supported Employment Program. "We provide different positions where residents work on-site and they help with different programming," said FC Supportive Services Manager Lori Burnett. "A lot of the residents who are employed in the program have worked before, but for some reason have found themselves out of the workforce for a particular amount of time. So, they just need something to help them transition to more gainful employment in the community."

The program also includes 12 months of training, education, on-site support, and job search assistance. The employees perform various services that are vital for FC communities. That was never more apparent than during the pandemic and the severe winter storm this year. Residents found themselves confined to their apartments and getting access to food became more

difficult and even risky. For some residents, the program also provided the only social outlet they could look forward to.





Food Pantry attendee Tim Tealer said, **"They know that we're doing it out of love. They even call me by name and thank me and everything. That makes me feel good and appreciated."**

 Watch a video story about these employees and the food deliveries at foundcom.org/blog.



We'd like to recognize the way Foundation Communities staff and volunteers have stepped up to keep operations running during COVID-19.

FC STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS MEET PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

-  Property staff continued providing essential services for residents
-  Tax help preparers, financial assistance coaches, learning center teachers, yoga instructors and many others learned to work with clients and students virtually
-  Food pantry services became critical for many of our neighbors
-  We started offering free COVID-19 vaccinations in May



— April 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021: —

4,216 households accessed our food services

Our food services were accessed a total of 29,917 times

48% of households we served reported a loss of income or employment



free minds
a program of Foundation Communities

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Help us spread the word!

- ▶ Learn from UT and ACC faculty
- ▶ Earn 6 college credits from ACC
- ▶ **2021-22 deadline: July 9**

We are seeking students, eager to learn while earning college credits through our Free Minds program.

This program provides a supportive path back into the classroom and students accepted will be exposed to literature, history, philosophy, art history and writing.

FreeMindsAustin.org

Foundation Communities
3036 South First Street
Austin, TX 78704



LAUREL CREEK

WE ARE GROWING!

The need for affordable housing, especially to help those experiencing homelessness has never been greater. We are proud to be under construction on three, beautiful new communities:

Laurel Creek

Zilker Studios

The Loretta

Reopen doors to education

Coming in July



Our Back-to-School Drive supports students with free, on-site afterschool programs at our 14 Learning Centers. This year, we're counting on virtual support from community members like you to help **reopen doors to education!**

Together we will support students with access to supplies, technology and meals for the 2021-22 school year. Invite your family, friends, and colleagues to participate with you this year to help us support even more families.



Summer, the way it used to be

It's summer break 2021 and our children need to learn, play and socialize, maybe more than ever! That's just what the kids in our Summer Learning Program are doing. The program started on June 14th and it will run until July 30th at all 14 of our Learning Centers.

Attendance is down a bit for the summer session, but there's no shortage of fun and educational activities. For instance, students will learn how fun coding is from Austin Kids Can.

And, it's all free, supervised and right in their communities.



512.447.2026
FoundCom.org



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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