

Church's Legacy to Live On through Affordable Housing

In Austin's Riverside area, an old church stands in a grassy field among towering shade trees. The Parker Lane United Methodist Church (UMC) building has been on the eight-acre site for more than 60 years, but in 2019 it was forced to close because of declining membership.

On a sweltering Austin day, Foundation Communities Executive Director Walter Moreau stood underneath one of those majestic trees with a UMC official to discuss plans for the property's next chapter.



"The typical default for the United Methodist Church is just to sell the property," said Austin District Lay Leader Brooks Schuelke. **"We thought that this property is too big of a resource to just sell."**

What they decided to do was enter into a lease agreement with Foundation Communities to allow FC to build an affordable apartment complex here for 135 low-income families with an onsite learning center. Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs has approved \$15 million in tax credits for the construction, and the City of Austin will contribute \$4.1 million in matching funds.

The plan is to start construction on Parker Lane Apartments next spring and welcome home families by the end of 2023. They'll find an apartment community that's environmentally friendly and comforting.

"(We're) incorporating as many elements of 'trauma-informed design' and 'healing-centered design' as we can to better respond to the mental health needs of the community we serve," said Megan Matthews, FC's Director of Design.

Service to community is the main reason UMC chose to partner with Foundation Communities, as it's a big part of Parker Lane UMC's legacy. They especially love the learning center concept, which primarily houses after-school classes for children.

"Many, if not most of our churches are also involved in local schools doing similar kind of work," said Schuelke. **"You're gonna have a food pantry. Many of our churches do food pantries."**



Learn more about plans for Parker Lane Apartments by watching video of Walter's conversation with Brooks Schuelke on our blog at foundcom.org/blog.

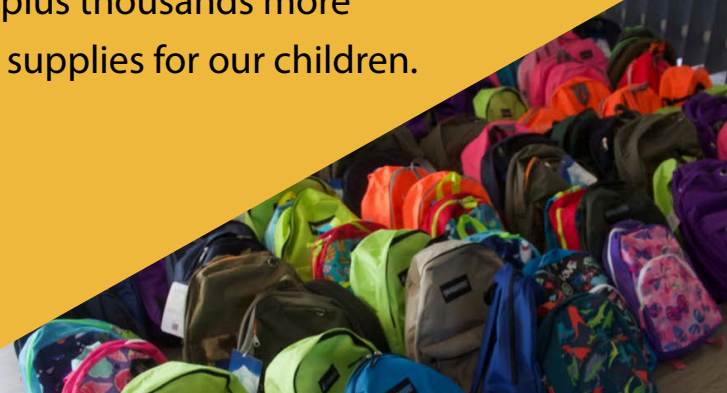
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everyone who donated to
our Back to School Drive!

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Foundation Communities
3000 S IH 35, Ste 300
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\$3 Million Health Coverage Grant

Foundation Communities has been awarded \$3 million by the Biden Administration to expand our health insurance enrollment program!

➔ Read the full story at foundcom.org/blog.

We have immediate openings on our Health Coverage team. Apply at foundcom.org/jobs.

THANK YOU, corporate partners for your support of our housing and programs. Your donations of time and money are critical to our residents and clients.



Interested in getting your company or employer involved with Foundation Communities?

Contact Nikki.Krueger@foundcom.org or foundcom.org/corporate-engagement

Capital Studios Resident is Full of Life, Despite Health Issues

Manuel "Manny" Nañez greets everyone he meets at his home, Capital Studios. He's a Community Engagement Specialist there, and as part of the Supported Employment Program, he delivers food pantry items to his neighbors. He's constantly looking for ways to help out.

"That's what keeps me going. I have to be busy," said Nañez.

But, Manny's life, like the emergency transmitter around his neck, hangs in the balance. Manny is now waiting for a liver transplant. He says his struggles with alcohol led to severe liver disease, and it caused him to become homeless.

➔ Learn how Manny got on the road to recovery, and how support services at Capital Studios are helping him stay sober and active at foundcom.org/blog.

FC ENROLLS ALMOST 700 PEOPLE IN 2021



The Foundation Communities Health Coverage team wrapped up the Affordable Care Act Special Enrollment Period after helping almost **700** people enroll in high-quality Marketplace plans.

Additionally, the Health Coverage team was able to update Marketplace plans for over **1,100** clients, lowering the cost of their premiums by almost a million dollars for 2021, collectively.

➔ **If you need help signing up for health coverage:**

The new Open Enrollment Period starts November 1st and ends December 15th. Get started by calling **512-381-4520** or visiting prosperhealthcoverage.org.



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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