Austin, TX

# **IMPACT**

Dec. 2022

Get involved at foundcom.org

#### **Record Number of Families Request Support from Holiday Program**

Seven-year-old Zoe is a big fan of unicorns, Santa Claus and the magic of Christmas. Her mother Heather wants to keep it that way. Last year didn't bring as much holiday cheer. Heather and Zoe's father lost their home, and then they split up, leaving the mother and daughter living off Heather's small disability check. They were forced to bounce around between the homes of relatives and friends. Heather says Zoe handled it with maturity.

"She says mommy, the world doesn't revolve around money. It revolves around love. No matter what, mommy's gonna make sure I don't go without." said Heather.

Zoe was right. In July, Heather was accepted into our Children's HOME Initiative. The program provides rental assistance for their apartment at Homestead Oaks. Also, Heather is excited to be working for the first time in seven years. They're looking

forward to enjoying the holidays alone and receiving gifts through the Holiday Assistance program.

We have the apartment and I've got a part-time job, but I'm still, struggling," said Heather. "So, it's like anything that can ease the load for me I will totally take it."

Zoe is expecting Santa to bring her a Gabby's Dollhouse. Heather's wish is that soon they'll be in a financial position to donate to other families who need assistance. You can hear her message to sponsors in the Holiday Assistance program on our blog at **foundcom.org/blog**.

Our Holiday Assistance Program invites generous Central Texans to sponsor a family living in one of our affordable communities by purchasing the gifts they've requested or gift cards. We're also accepting donations to help families and individuals who are struggling to pay rent, and to help them buy groceries, holiday meals and household items. The program takes on added importance this year with prices rising. This year, we've had a record number of families, 700, request support. The deadline to sign up to be a sponsor is December 5th. Join the giving at **foundcom.org/holiday**.



### **Three Affordable Communities Opening Soon in Austin**



**Zilker Studios -1508 S Lamar Blvd** 110 apartments for single adults Opening March 2023



**The Loretta -13649 Rutledge Spur** 137 apartments for families Opening April 2023



Balcones Terrace 10024 N Capital of TX 123 apartments for single adults Opening April 2023



HAAM member James Bookert performed and shared his insurance story at our Open Enrollment Kickoff.

## **Health Insurance Deadlines Approaching**

Open Enrollment for Healthcare.gov Marketplace health insurance is off to a good start for our Prosper Health Coverage program. With more than 100 certified navigators, Foundation Communities has the largest non-profit health insurance enrollment program in Central Texas, and in the first two weeks of Open Enrollment, we helped more than 1,000 of our neighbors sign up for affordable health insurance free of charge. That's a large increase over last year.

At our Open Enrollment kickoff event on October 26, Congressman Lloyd Doggett said thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, Marketplace plans are more accessible and less expensive for Texans than ever before. "There are nearly one-and-a-half million people in our state that are eligible for free Marketplace coverage right now, and many of those people will not get it because they're working hard just to get by and they're not aware of these opportunities," said Doggett.

Open Enrollment runs through January 15, but applicants must be signed up by December 15 to have coverage on January 1. Our north and south Prosper Centers are scheduling appointments and accepting walk-ins and enrollment by phone. Learn more at **ProsperHealthCoverage.org**.

## Please Consider Making a Year-End Donation



Foundation Communities is growing to meet Austin's need for affordable and safe housing. Our need for financial support is growing as well. Your tax-deductible donation will help us continue to invest in the success of our lower-income neighbors. foundcom.org/donate





#### **Call Goes Out for More Tax Help Volunteers**

Many Central Texans are feeling the financial pinch from inflation. A great way to help our lower-income neighbors recover much of their hard-earned money is by volunteering as a tax preparer with Foundation Communities' Prosper Tax Help program. Our IRS-certified tax preparers provide free, high-quality tax services every year for thousands of Central Texans, often helping them get refunds that amount to a third or more of their annual income.

Our Tax Help program will need over 600 volunteers for the 2023 tax season. No prior experience is required to volunteer. We provide all the training needed, and we offer flexible schedules. Next year, we're hoping to return more than \$30 million in tax refunds, but we can't do it without help.

You can learn more and sign up at **foundcom.org/volunteer**. Training starts soon, so please don't wait. You can also watch video of our December 2 Tax Help Kickoff Event by scrolling down our blog at **foundcom.org/blog**.



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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 26 properties in Austin and North Texas.



