

Family Finds Financial Footing with Affordable Housing, Support

Iyanna Burns prides herself in being independent and self-sufficient. But in 2019, she had to swallow that pride a bit. Pregnant with her third child, Iyanna made the decision to remove herself from an unhealthy living situation and return to the north Austin area. It's where she had grown up, and where she could find support from family members. Unable to find an apartment she could afford on what she made at a fast food restaurant, Iyanna took her brother up on his offer to move in with his family.



"When I came here to Lakeline Station, I was blown away. The apartments were really, really nice apartments – so spacious and in a quiet community," said Iyanna.

Iyanna says she was excited, but also scared. She was about to be raising her children by herself for the first time. Fortunately, as part of Foundation Communities' Children's HOME Initiative, she received free parental support. Iyanna embraced

the financial coaching classes even more as she had compiled quite a bit of debt.

Iyanna said, "I made up my mind I was going to do everything they asked me to do, and it paid off."

She was able to buy a newer car, one with air conditioning that works! Now, she is virtually debt-free. Her goal now is to purchase a home for her family. Iyanna says it wouldn't have been possible without affordable housing and support services from Foundation Communities.

Iyanna says in the past, she had always been reluctant to ask for help because she was afraid of what people might think of her. Now, she believes what really counts is what you do with the help you receive. Learn more about Iyanna Burns and her family's journey, and watch her tell her story at a recent housing expansion event on our blog at foundcom.org/blog.

"There were three – and then four of us packed into one bedroom – little toys, little shoes, stuff everywhere," said Iyanna. "And, there was never a moment of peace or privacy. I needed that."

Iyanna says the worst part was having to rely on someone to help her with the kids she gave birth to. She recalls how embarrassed she was when one of her boys spilled paint, leaving a big, permanent stain on the carpet – carpet she could not afford to replace.

In the summer of 2020, Iyanna started looking again for an apartment she could afford. She called 2-1-1 and learned about Foundation Communities. She went through the application process, and weeks later, she received a call that her family was approved for an apartment at Lakeline Station.

Efforts Underway to Raise \$30 million for New Housing

Plans are underway for Foundation Communities to complete construction of eight new, affordable apartment communities all over Austin. At a press event May 25th, we announced we had about 90% of the estimated \$272 million needed, and were seeking the final \$30 million from government sources, foundations, corporations and private donors.

Foundation Communities Executive Director Walter Moreau, Austin Mayor Steve Adler and some of our most dedicated supporters spoke about the urgent need for the new housing. Moreau said, "When we opened our last two affordable communities, we received 10 times more applications than the number of apartments, and our waiting lists are longer than ever." At press time, \$11 million had been raised. Learn more about our expansion plans at foundcom.org/future-communities.



Event attendees tour construction of The Loretta

MAJOR DONATIONS

\$6M US Treasury Dept |
Capital Magnet Fund

\$3M From St. David's
Foundation for Parker Ln

\$1M From Realty Austin to
name the Laurel Creek
Learning Center

\$1M From anonymous donor

Prosper Tax Help Completes Nearly 11,000 Tax Returns

The staff and volunteers in our Prosper Tax Help program completed another successful tax filing season providing free tax services for thousands of Central Texans. Many clients saw larger refunds thanks to tax credits. Learn more about our tax season results at foundcom.org/blog.



Total refunds:

\$24.1M

315 VOLUNTEERS

dedicated



Total returns:

10,959

17,582 HOURS

of service



Set Students Up for Success in School

Our Back to School Drive week starts on Monday, July 25th. You can help us reach our goal of raising \$70,000 so we can send 658 students back to school with all the resources they need.

Your support will ensure students are set up for a successful start to the school year with a backpack, school supplies, meals and access to technology. We are working hard to help students achieve their educational goals at our 15 Learning Centers in Austin and North Texas. Learn more and donate at foundcom.org/btsd.



Learning Centers Taking Kids Around the World



Students participating in the Summer Programs at our 15 Learning Centers are not only benefiting from educational and fitness programming, they're also enjoying activities with the theme "Around the World." The purpose is to enable students to learn about different cultures and people across the globe in a fun and educational way. Students are participating in a variety of enrichment activities such as art, geography, cooking and science, with each of the seven weeks focusing on a different continent.

August is Planned Giving Month

When you designate a gift to Foundation Communities in your estate planning, your gift will help us to continue to provide housing and support services for low-income families and individuals.

foundcom.org/planned-giving.



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 26 properties in Austin and North Texas.



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