

Formerly Homeless Man Calls Living at The Jordan a Blessing

Ronn Davila is passionate and sincere as he describes the five years he spent homeless as his chance to start over. Once a successful business manager, Ronn was unemployed when he became separated from his wife and four children in 2011. He began living in his truck and spending his days searching for work, free food and a safe place to sleep and shower.

"I didn't feel helpless because my faith and my drive is such that this is not who I am, this is what I am now," said Ronn. "I need to try to fight to get my life back."

After five years, Ronn's truck broke down and he was forced to move into homeless shelters in downtown Austin. This turned out to be a blessing. He not only had regular meals, he also got a case manager and a voucher to work out at the YMCA. Managers at the "Y" were so impressed by how hard Ronn was working to lose weight and by his positive attitude that they hired him to clean the facility after hours. That allowed Ronn to save enough money to rent an apartment. He was no longer homeless.


From there, Ronn spent the next five years seeking out better paying jobs in construction and saving his money so he could move into apartments that were nicer and in safer parts of Austin. In 2018, Ronn found out Foundation Communities would soon open a brand new, affordable apartment community in the posh Mueller development.



Ronn wanted so much to live in The Jordan at Mueller that he decided to step out on faith. He went back to living in his truck to save money, and he made sure he was one of the first people to apply for an apartment. Ronn won over the property managers with his story and his determination. They went the extra mile to help him get approved to move in.

Ronn told the managers, "I'll bring back the paperwork, I'll go get pay stubs. I've got the money. You want it in pennies? Whatever you need."

Now, Ronn Davila is enjoying life at The Jordan, and he's constantly looking for opportunities to help his neighbors. You can read more about Ronn's journey to The Jordan and hear him reflect on his current life there at foundcom.org/blog.



Your Donation to Foundation Communities for Amplify Austin will help us continue to give people like Ronn a fresh start.

Early giving is already underway!
Amplify Austin Day - March 1-2

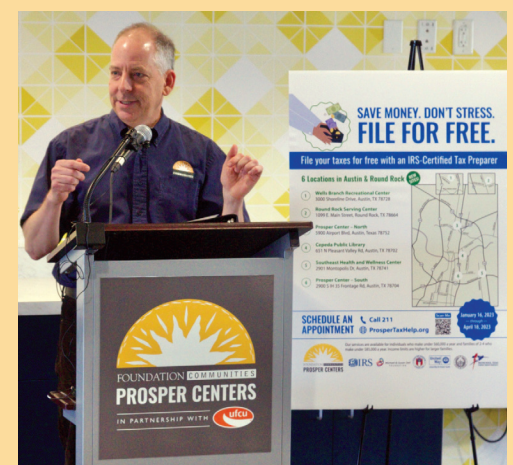
Give today at foundcom.org/amplify

Prosper Tax Help Opens Tax Season Celebrating a Half-Billion Dollar Milestone

Foundation Communities' Prosper Tax Help program began its 19th tax season year last month with a milestone announcement - the free program had returned more than a half-billion dollars in refunds to more than 300,000. At the kickoff, Executive Director Walter Moreau said he couldn't think of an economic development activity that's had such an impact on our community.

Prosper Tax Help expects to complete 15,000 returns in the 2023 Tax Season. Many of those will be for repeat clients, like Sanaa Dalu. Dalu has been getting her taxes done through Foundation Communities since she moved into one of the organization's apartment communities in 2012. Now, she is a homeowner and she typically uses her tax refund to pay down her mortgage. Asked why she keeps returning to Prosper Tax Help, Dalu said, "They are very friendly and you feel like they care about you and the maximum refund you get. I never heard of Earned Income Tax (Credit) until I came to the Foundation Communities Tax Center."

Tax filers can receive more than \$8,000 through the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, but every year, many eligible families don't claim those credits. Until the April 18 filing deadline, Central Texans are encouraged to "Save Money, Don't Stress, File for Free" at one of six Austin area Prosper Tax Help Centers, which will be open seven-days-a-week. Appointments are available at ProsperTaxHelp.org, or by calling 2-1-1.



Foundation Communities Executive Director Walter Moreau reflects on the milestone at the Prosper Tax Help Kickoff January 18th.

Health Coverage Team Wraps Up Successful Open Enrollment

Foundation Communities' 10th Open Enrollment period for Marketplace health insurance ended on January 15 after enrolling more than 4,000 Central Texans in quality, affordable health insurance plans. We couldn't have done it without help from 120 dedicated volunteers who donated over 1,800 hours of their time.

This important work will continue year-round as individuals can enroll in Marketplace insurance plans during a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). They must meet certain eligibility requirements. Appointments can be scheduled at **737-717-4000** or **ProsperHealthCoverage.org**.

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD ELIGIBILITY

- Losing health coverage
- Moving
- Getting married
- Having a baby
- Adopting a child

Volunteers Needed for Various Programs

Foundation Communities will open at least three additional apartment communities this year. As we grow, our need for volunteers grows as well. We are currently seeking new volunteers in these programs:

- Prosper Tax Help
- Welcome Home Baskets
- Supper Clubs
- Learning Centers



Women of Valor from Oak Hill UMC host Monthly Supper Clubs at Garden Terrace.

You can find out about all these programs and sign up at **foundcom.org/volunteer**.



Strength Training with Ash

We Make Getting Fit Fun and Free!

Central Texans who have already slacked off on their fitness goals for 2023 can get a fresh start by attending one of our free Zumba, strength training or stretching classes at the Southwest Trails, Cardinal Point, Lakeline Station or Laurel Creek Learning Centers. All the classes are free and open to the public.

Eva Contreras drives from Onion Creek to Southwest Trails for the Monday morning zumba classes. She says the time works for her and right now she can't afford to pay for a workout class or gym membership. Eva said, "My mom died from a heart attack so I really want to start improving my health and just get moving. I do chores at home, but it's not like this...the vibe, the fun." You can find more information about our fitness classes at **fchealth.info**.

WE'RE NOW OFFERING BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Our Prosper Financial Wellness team is now helping low-income Central Texans enroll in or get renewed for these state benefits:

- **SNAP** (Food Stamps)
- **TANF** (Cash Assistance)
- **Medicaid**
- **CHIP** (Children's Health Insurance)
- **WIC** (Nutritional Program)
- **Healthy Texas Women**

Appointments at **737-249-6394**
or **BenefitsAssistance@foundcom.org**



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 26 properties in Austin and North Texas.



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