

Family Finds a Home and Pursues Dreams at Laurel Creek

Edward and Rebecca Henderson had dreams of owning a farm. The parents of three girls, they were leasing property in Bastrop County on a “handshake” deal - they could one day buy it minus what they had paid in rent. But In 2016, the owner sold the property at a higher price and gave the family one month to move out.

“We were angry and felt betrayed,” said Edward. “I had to watch my wife cry. But we also realized we still had each other, we had God’s grace, and we had time to turn things around.”

They didn’t expect that turnaround to take six years. Unable to find an apartment they could afford in the Austin area, the Hendersons moved into a tiny home owned by a church shelter. Their next move was into an apartment in Giddings. After a few years, they decided they were too far from Austin, as Edward’s delivery work was costing too much in gas and time away from home.



In 2021, the family moved into an extended stay hotel in Austin. The hotel hired Edward, so that became their home, but a year later, he was told he could no longer live and work there. They had two weeks to leave.

That’s when Rebecca called 2-1-1 and found out about Foundation Communities. She called us, and received a call back the next day saying her family could move into Laurel Creek if they met all the qualifications. They did.

Edward said, “It’s been a blessing; a supportive community where we feel calm and like we don’t have to worry.”

The Hendersons moved in through our Children’s HOME Initiative (CHI), which includes a significant rent reduction and services like financial coaching. The family’s financial situation is rapidly improving, which has them dreaming again about one day owning a farm. You can read more and hear Edward speak about his family’s experiences on our blog at foundcom.org/blog.

Celebrating \$2.6 Million in Federal Funding for Solar Panels, Learning Centers

Foundation Communities is grateful to US Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) for securing more than \$2.6 million in federal funding for our sustainability and education programs as a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Doggett joined us on March 14 at the Laurel Creek Learning Center to explain how the funding will help make our housing even more affordable for residents through the purchase and installation of solar panels at some of our apartment communities. Doggett said, “This will basically, we believe, reduce the energy costs for Foundation Communities by a little more than \$100,000 each year.” That money can be used to the benefit of our residents and those who use our financial wellness and health programs. Doggett praised us for leading the way in reducing our country’s reliance on fossil fuels. Foundation Communities is already the largest nonprofit producer of solar power in Central Texas with 1.5 megawatts of generating capacity.

The funding will also help our Learning Centers better assist families with free afterschool and summer learning programs. You can watch video of this event by scrolling down our blog at foundcom.org/blog.



Rep. Lloyd Doggett shows off a solar panel

Foundation Communities
3000 S IH 35, Ste 300
Austin, TX 78704

Pre-leasing Underway for Zilker Studios

Due to the enormous number of people interested in the 110 apartments at Zilker Studios (more than 2600!), Foundation Communities is selecting applicants for pre-leasing using a lottery system. We will start welcoming home residents in May.



We're Saluting our Volunteers!

April is Global Volunteer Month and Foundation Communities is sending a huge thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who enable us to serve our neighbors through supportive services and financial, education and health programs.

We're especially recognizing the more than 300 Tax Help volunteers who helped us surpass the total number of tax returns we processed in 2022 for low and moderate-income filers. Tax Help volunteer, UT business student Armani Marshal-Sulayman, said she loved getting practical experience and serving the community.



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

Healthy Crowds Enjoying Zumba and Free Child Care



On Friday mornings the Homestead Oaks Learning Center is filled with lively Latin music and dozens of energized neighbors. Zumba classes started there in March with Jasmin returning to lead the class.

Eloya Lozano said, "I come here because I love Zumba, I love dancing, I love exercising and I love the instructor." For cancer survivor Mary Hart, it's all about improving her health. Get inspired by watching video of the class on our blog at foundcom.org/blog.

We are now providing free child care at all of our fitness classes. View the full schedule of Health Initiatives events at FCHHealth.info.

Zumba class at Homestead Oaks Learning Center with Jasmin



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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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