



Mission Plaza  
Austin, TX

# IMPACT

December 2023

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## Holiday Program Seeking Donations for Gifts, Rent Assistance



Before the holidays arrived last year, Jannette prepared her six children for the possibility that they would not receive any gifts. She says they understood that she wasn't making much money working in a school cafeteria, and they were happy just to be away from the bad situation that had caused them to become homeless. They were living in a motel when they learned that they could move into Homestead Oaks through our Children's HOME Initiative.

Through CHI, the family signed up for the Home for the Holidays program, which collects donations so Foundation Communities residents can have gifts that will brighten their holidays. Jannette says her kids were excited when they received toys, shoes, clothes, cookware and gift cards.

**"We don't really have family around, but other people that are not even family made our Christmas a really beautiful Christmas," said Jannette.**

More than 650 families have requested holiday gift support through Home for the Holidays. We are asking Central Texans to donate, and to ask others to donate at [foundcom.org/holiday](https://foundcom.org/holiday), so we can raise at least \$100,000.

This year, we have included an option to donate to our Rent Assistance program. We are seeing an increasing number of families requesting help paying their monthly rent due to a financial hardship. Since City, County and State rent assistance programs have closed, there are very few resources of this type available for residents. Our program has paid out almost \$200,000 this year and the funding has run out.

Karol is an ACC student who lives at The Jordan at Mueller with her partner and their 5-year-old son. They have received assistance to pay rent twice in the past two years. She says because of parenting and the high cost of college, they're surviving on just her partner's income until she graduates.

**"It is exciting that we will be able to take control of our finances thanks to the rent assistance program and the generosity of donors," said Karol.**



## Families Moving into The Loretta, Some Apartments Still Available

The opening of The Loretta Apartments in NW Austin couldn't have come at a better time for Glenda Dennis and her daughter and son. After the rent for her townhome went up last year, the family barely had enough money to live on. Then, the child support payments Glenda counted on to supplement her income became unreliable. She got behind and they were just days away from being evicted with no plan for where they would go.

The Dennis family moved into the new community at 13649 Rutledge Spur last month through our Children's HOME Initiative for families at risk of becoming homeless. We still have affordable 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments available for applicants who meet the low-to-moderate income and other requirements. Residents will have free access to the Afterschool and Summer programs at the Learning Center at nearby Lakeline Station Apartments, as well as Healthy Food Pantry and fitness programs. The leasing office is open Monday through Saturday to accept applications. Walk-ins are welcome.



Appointments can be made at [TLmanager@foundcom.org](mailto:TLmanager@foundcom.org) or by calling **512-381-5560**. Learn more about the Dennis family and watch video of Glenda and her daughter celebrating Thanksgiving in their new home at [foundcom.org/blog](https://foundcom.org/blog).

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## We Need Tax Help Volunteers!

Will you volunteer with Tax Help at Foundation Communities this spring? We're in need of 600+ volunteers and we would love to get you involved. Volunteers work one-on-one with clients to provide free tax services and ensure each person receives the maximum refund possible. Training is available in mid-December and no experience is needed.

To volunteer or get more information, contact

**Miller.Wilbourn@foundcom.org**



We also need more Learning Center and Healthy Food Pantry volunteers. Sign up at [foundcom.org/volunteer](https://foundcom.org/volunteer).



## Another Harmonious Start to Open Enrollment at Prosper Center

Before treating the crowd at Prosper Center South to a healthy dose of great music, Austin musician and HAAM member Kelsi Creek talked about struggling with chronic ailments and being without health insurance for four years. Kelsi now has health insurance through the Healthcare.gov Marketplace.

Foundation Communities kicked off Open Enrollment on November 1. Executive Director Walter Moreau urged uninsured community members to let our team of health insurance navigators help them select the plan that will work best for their health care needs and budget. Austin City Council Member Vanessa Fuentes said health coverage is a right and not a privilege, while Congressman Lloyd Doggett said many Texans who qualify for zero-premium plans don't enroll.

You can watch video of our Open Enrollment Kickoff event at [foundcom.org/blog](https://foundcom.org/blog).

## An Important Health Coverage Deadline Is Just Days Away!



The Healthcare.gov Open Enrollment period runs from November 1 through January 16, but applicants who want to be sure that their coverage will begin on January 1 must enroll by December 15.

In Travis County this year, there are 10 health coverage providers who are offering 132 different plans.

Since the first Open Enrollment season, our team of experts has helped more than 50,000 people enroll in health insurance.

**If you need help enrolling in an affordable health insurance plan, go to [ProsperHealthCoverage.org](https://ProsperHealthCoverage.org).**



512.447.2026  
[FoundCom.org](https://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 27 properties in Austin and North Texas.



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