



Mission Plaza  
Austin, TX

# IMPACT

October 2023

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## Immigrant Family Finds Safety, Stability through Affordable Housing



support they received from staff at Vintage Creek and its Learning Center, they might have returned to the danger of Africa.

**"Vintage Creek, they have a program for English. I was going there every single day to learn how to speak American English," said Jeremiah.**

After a couple of years, Jeremiah was hired at Vintage Creek as a porter, and through hard work he has become one of our lead maintenance technicians. In 2017, his family of 10 moved into their own five-bedroom home.

Read more about the Balingene family's story at **[foundcom.org/blog](https://foundcom.org/blog)**. Foundation Communities has been fortunate to fill many openings on our maintenance staff in recent years with immigrants who keep our communities clean and in working order.

Like many immigrants, the Balingene family came to the US to escape the danger of their homeland. Ethnic violence had spilled into the Democratic Republic of the Congo from the genocidal civil war in Rwanda. After a few years in a refugee camp, the family had an opportunity through a US State Department program to legally emigrate to Central Texas.

**"I chose to be part of American people. It looked like it was safe here," said Jeremiah.**

As sponsored refugees, the Balingenes had an apartment waiting for them at our Trails at Vintage Creek and more than a year of assistance with rent and utilities. Jeremiah had a difficult time finding work. He settled for a minimum wage job sorting trash that barely paid enough to buy food for his family of seven (at that time). They had many questions about how things work in America, but they struggled to understand American English. Jeremiah says if not for the



## St. David's Awards \$3.7M for Programs



Huge gratitude to our funding partner, St. David's Foundation, for their latest gift of

\$3,747,384 that will help fund wraparound services through 2024 and will be essential to Foundation Communities' mission of creating housing where families succeed. St. David's Foundation understands that the cornerstone for health is a home.

Their funding over the past decade has helped establish critical services for supportive housing, families and individuals transitioning from homelessness, Health Initiatives programming, marketplace insurance enrollment, and older adults

## Other Recent Grant Awards

**Michael & Susan Dell Foundation** (20+ yr partnership) \$1.26M/18 months for Learning Centers, Children's HOME Initiative, Prosper Tax Help

**KLE Foundation** (undisclosed amount) for infrastructure growth in supportive housing/relief from homelessness

**Trellis Foundation** \$100,000 for Education Pathways

**Long Foundation** \$20,000 for Education Pathways/College Hub

**NeighborWorks America** \$25,000 for predevelopment for Mary Lee Foundation Project

**TSAHC Foundations Fund** \$25,000 for Children's HOME Initiative

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## The Loretta Apartments Leasing Underway



### New Zumba Classes!

You asked for it! We've added two evening Zumba classes in North and South Austin.

**Sierra Ridge Apts Learning Center** Mondays 6:30-7:30pm

**Trails at Vintage Creek Learning Center** Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm  
Free child care

[fchealth.info](http://fchealth.info)

## Healthy Food Pantries Receive Award



The Healthy Food Pantry programs at our communities for families and single adults were awarded the Empowering Award by the Central Texas Food Bank. The Food Bank presents the award to a partner agency "that has displayed extraordinary commitment to their mission and to serving the community."

The award came with a Texas Senate proclamation and a flag that has flown over the State Capitol. Congratulations to the staff and volunteers of the Healthy Food Pantries.

Food Pantry staff members Qadir Anderson-Perry and Lori Burnett accepted the Empowering Award.

## Prosper Financial Wellness Helping Central Texans Dropped from Medicaid

Foundation Communities launched the Prosper Benefits Assistance Program in the spring of this year. That was just in time to help tackle a healthcare crisis. According to some lawmakers, about a million Texans have lost access to Medicaid since April. That's when the automatic renewal for Medicaid that was put in place by the Biden Administration because of COVID-19 expired.

Many Central Texans who recently lost Medicaid benefits are being referred to our Benefits Assistance Program by other nonprofits and clinics. We're finding that many people were dropped because they weren't aware they had to apply for renewal. Many had moved and didn't receive the mailed notifications.

There are a lot of documents required to apply for Medicaid and that's where many people get stuck. FC Benefits Enrollment specialist Jessica Valdez said, "Sometimes they tell us they don't have time to collect documents while having to work and care for their families. Particularly, employer verification forms can be difficult to obtain."

Foundation Communities is available to help Central Texans get renewed or apply for Medicaid Benefits. For those who are not eligible, our Health Coverage teams can get them signed up for affordable health insurance through the Healthcare.gov Marketplace. Read more about how we are helping address this Medicaid crisis in Texas, and how it affected one of our clients by scrolling down our blog at [foundcom.org/blog](https://foundcom.org/blog).



512.447.2026  
[FoundCom.org](http://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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