



Mission Plaza  
Austin, TX

# IMPACT

April-May 2024

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## Murals Become Part of the Big Picture for New Housing

Whether they're enjoying coffee hour or bingo, residents of Zilker Studios say they feel a sense of calm and serenity from the flower-filled mural that graces a large wall in their community room. Calm is what the artists with Creative Action had in mind last July, knowing that many Zilker Studios residents have experienced homelessness.

Residents picked the flowers from a handful of design choices. Carla Rangel, shown here, says they love the mural and they loved playing a role in its creation.

**"This is the place where we bond and we form community," said Carla. "I feel like [Foundation Communities] has really tried hard to make this a place of peace."**



**"I wanted to bring home the idea that we honor our predecessors and have a special reverence for the land on which we inhabit," said Muzacz.**

This is not the first, or even the most recent mural painted at a Foundation Communities development, and it won't be the last. Last year, we allocated funds from the development budget for the flower mural, and for the huge mural of longhorn cattle in a field of wildflowers that adorns The Loretta Apartments. With a grant from Texas Commission on the Arts the project grew from murals on three concrete dumpsters to a three-story pictorial.

The central figure in the mural is Loretta, a calf that once lived on the property and was named after singer Loretta Lynn. That calf is now happily grazing in Leander. Residents and others love the mural and its story, including artist, J Muzacz.

Foundation Communities will open Balcones Terrace this year for single adults, and plans are underway to include a mural using funds from a new line item for murals in the construction budgets. Executive Director Walter Moreau says some of our building walls make a wonderful canvass to share artwork that celebrates a sense of home and community.

Learn more about the Foundation Communities murals program, and see photos and learn the stories behind all the murals at our apartment communities at [foundcom.org/blog](http://foundcom.org/blog).

## We're Celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week!



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK  
APRIL 22-26

THANK YOU,  
VOLUNTEERS

Gail Worrell (on left) learned about Foundation Communities six years ago at our Welcome Home Luncheon. A short time later, she was retired and volunteering with us - first with Tax Help, then she found a home with our Healthy Food Pantry program. Once every week, including during the pandemic, Gail has distributed food and traded recipes at Sierra Vista and Trails at Vintage Creek. She has also volunteered with Running Buddies and Voter Registration.

April 22 - 26 is our Volunteer Appreciation Week. Through email and social media, Foundation Communities is thanking the more than 3,200 volunteers who gave their time and talents to help us serve our community in the past year. Learn about our volunteer programs and watch the new volunteer program video at [foundcom.org/volunteer](http://foundcom.org/volunteer).



## Foundation Communities Deepens Commitment to Promoting Digital Literacy



In keeping with our mission of creating housing where families succeed, the Foundation Communities Digital Literacy program helps residents learn basic computer skills. This is essential today as the lack of computer access and skills, something often referred to as the digital divide, can be a barrier for finding and applying for jobs, accessing benefits, goods and services, and advancing in education.

Our Digital Literacy program started in 2014 with one staff member who taught computer skills part time. Thanks to funding from Travis County, we have hired a full-time Digital Literacy manager. Lucita Rodriguez is a former Foundation Communities resident and Teen Program participant. During her undergraduate years, she worked as a Youth Program Assistant in our Learning Centers helping parents learn computer skills.

Lucita took her commitment to bridging the digital divide to the next level as an Advising Fellow with Breakthrough Central Texas. She also took part in an Immigrant and Refugee student working group. We look forward to seeing the Digital Literacy program pay huge dividends for our residents and community.

## Thank You



TAX  
HELP

Thank you everyone who helped our Tax Help programs in Central and North Texas complete another successful Tax Season. We are still tallying results, but here are preliminary results:

### Preliminary Results

More than **25,000**  
tax returns completed

More than **\$35 million**  
in tax refunds for clients

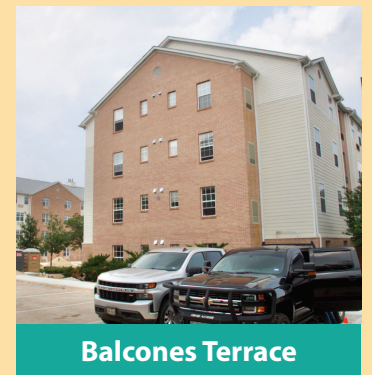
More than **600** volunteers

## Interested Lists are Open for New Affordable Homes

Foundation Communities will open two affordable communities this year, Parker Lane Apartments for families and Balcones Terrace for single adults. To apply for this housing, you must get on the interested list.



Parker Lane Apartments



Balcones Terrace

Go to [foundcom.org/future-communities](https://foundcom.org/future-communities) to get signed up.



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 28 properties in Austin and North Texas.



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