



Mission Plaza  
Austin, TX

# IMPACT

July 2024

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[foundcom.org](http://foundcom.org)

## Sprucing Up, Scaling Up Affordable Housing on Lamar Square

Foundation Communities is excited to have entered into a partnership with Mary Lee Foundation, an Austin non-profit that has provided services and affordable housing for people with disabilities for more than 60 years.

We have taken over ownership and management of most of the housing in Lamar Square, the city block where Mary Lee has been located since 1974. We will renovate or replace most of that housing, which Mary Lee says is long overdue,



**“We are excited to partner with Mary Lee to create a new community that will be designed for their clients and for new families in the heart of central Austin,” said Foundation Communities Executive Director Walter Moreau.**

Lamar Square will have a new Learning Center for youth after-school and summer learning, adult education and fitness classes. Also, on-site case management, a Healthy Food Pantry, and a park with outdoor amenities.

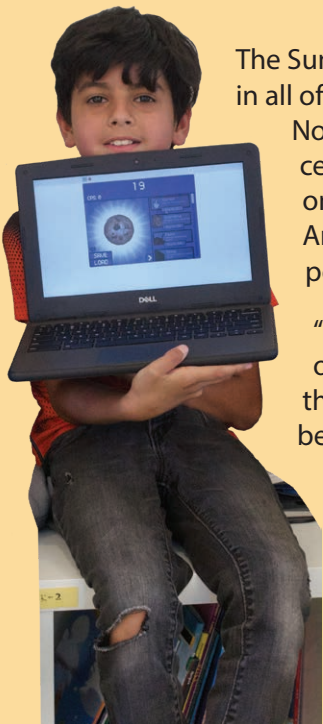
**Mary Lee’s Executive Director Russ Walker says, “We were way out of our field, and we didn’t have the resources, the manpower, the connections, the funding to turn this around quickly enough.”**

The redevelopment of Lamar Square will take place in three phases. It will involve the rehabilitation of more than 150 of the existing apartments. Other buildings that are beyond their useful age will be replaced. The plan will create more than 400 new apartments for more than 500 people - low-income families, single adults and residents with disabilities. They will live in a part of Austin that is rich with transit and job opportunities. All of the apartments will be affordable, and most would be classified as deeply affordable.

The redevelopment plan also prioritizes residents not being displaced from the square as many of them would struggle to find other housing they could afford that is accessible. Don Jones (pictured here) has lived on Lamar Square since 2016. The veteran says he had concerns when he first heard about all these changes, but he is now confident that residents will be taken care of. He is looking forward to getting a new apartment.

Learn more about the redevelopment of Lamar Square, how our partnership with Mary Lee Foundation developed and hear from resident Don Jones at [foundcom.org/blog](http://foundcom.org/blog).

## For Summer Learning, the Future is Now!



The Summer Learning program is underway in all of our Learning Centers in Austin and North Texas, and it’s a “STEAMy” one! The centers are focusing on lessons based on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math ending with a 3D “STEMposium” in week seven.

“Our students are growing up in an age of innovation. So while many consider the children to be the future, we firmly believe that the Future is Now,” said Director of Learning Center Programs Daniell Rider. “Every day that we continue to close the equity divide through STEM-based learning, they are growing in knowledge to create their futures TODAY!”

## Let’s Set Our Students Up for More Success!

D’Niya really loves the pink princess backpack she received from the Peter’s Colony Learning Center last summer. But, it’s showing signs of wear and tear. By donating to our Back to School Drive, you help us make sure all the students in our 16 Learning Centers will have everything they need to be well-equipped and well-nourished in the new school year.

You can donate today and learn how to set up your own fundraiser at [foundcom.org/btsd](http://foundcom.org/btsd).



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

## Rent Assistance Helping Residents Stay on Course

In April of last year, Stacey Peña Kambeu Kamsu was enjoying her affordable home at The Jordan at Mueller and working as a city bus driver. Then, she was the victim of a vicious attack on the bus that caused her medical problems and a huge financial speed bump. By April of this year, Stacey could no longer pay her rent and she was afraid she and her 14-year-old son would become homeless, perhaps even living in a tent. Read their story and how the Foundation Communities Rent Assistance program helped the family at [foundcom.org/blog](https://foundcom.org/blog).

Thanks largely to donations, in the first six months of 2024, we have extended **over \$79,300** in emergency rental assistance to **more than 75 families** and individuals. Thank you for helping us support these residents during difficult times.



## August is Planned Giving Month

When you designate a gift to Foundation Communities in your estate planning, you leave a legacy of helping us continue to provide housing and supportive services for low-income families and individuals.

Learn more at  
[foundcom.org/  
planned-giving](https://foundcom.org/planned-giving)

## Community Health Workers Finding Success

In February, Orisbel San Miguel (left), an immigrant from Cuba came to our Laurel Creek Apartments to take advantage of our no cost Healthy Food Pantry. There, she met Health Initiatives' Community Health Worker Brenda Garcia who began to connect her and her 11-year-old daughter with essential resources in the area. Just six weeks later, Orisbel and her daughter were able to move out of an overcrowded apartment and into their own place in one of our affordable communities.

Read more about their story and how our Community Health Worker program is bringing hope to families at [foundcom.org/blog](https://foundcom.org/blog).



## Aqua Zumba is Back!

Looking for a low-impact workout for your heart and muscles? Join us on Tuesdays at 6pm starting in July for Aqua Zumba at Trails at the Park. We are hoping to add more classes soon. Check the schedule for updates at [fhealth.info](https://fhealth.info).



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 29 properties in Austin and North Texas.



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