

## Donations Needed to Support Health Programs Many Rely On

Every other Monday, Nikki Rivera takes a walk to the main building at Laurel Creek Apartments where her family has lived for two years. Her 8-year-old son Kaydyn walks alongside and her 1-year-old daughter Kayaura rides in a wagon that will soon be filled with food.

They're headed to the Healthy Food Pantry, one of many around Austin hosted by the Foundation Communities Health Initiatives team where residents and neighbors receive healthy food at no cost.

A single-income family, the Riveras, like many, have been affected by the rising cost of healthy food.

**"...the way that I'm able to nourish my children's bodies is by the pantry because without that we wouldn't have as many things in the kitchen," said Nikki. "So, it means a lot."**

In 2024, Foundation Communities served approximately **383,000 pounds** of food and other essential items through **346 food pantries**, reaching over **2,000 different households**. It's a lifeline for many people facing food insecurity.

Unfortunately, due to the loss of government funding, we may be forced to reduce the number of food pantries around Austin, as well as other health programs we offer – fitness

classes, nutrition and chronic disease awareness classes, health fairs and no-cost immunizations. At Foundation Communities, we believe everyone deserves access to healthy food, quality health care and the resources to lead a healthier, fuller life. That's why we are hoping to

raise \$125,000 for our health programs during Amplify Austin.

**"Any gift in any amount will help us continue to create a healthier, more connected Austin," said Foundation Communities Executive Director Walter Moreau.**

Early giving is underway, and Amplify Austin Day starts on **March 5**. Learn more about our cause and donate at the address below.

Please also visit [foundcom.org/blog](http://foundcom.org/blog) to watch video of Nikki Rivera and her family go through the Healthy Food Pantry and use the food they received to prepare a healthy dinner.



## Parker Lane Apartments Opens with a Nod to its Church Partnership and Legacy



It takes a lot to build affordable housing, so when it opens for families, it's a joyful occasion. That's what Foundation Communities' Executive Director Walter Moreau shared at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Parker Lane Apartments on February 12. Leasing for the 135-unit community for families in southeast Austin started in November, and is continuing. It includes a Learning Center, a Healthy Food Pantry, playground and picnic facilities, an array of other amenities and a design that is intended to help residents feel safe.

Besides Moreau, speakers included City of Austin officials and other key funding partners, a mother who shared her family's journey from the brink of becoming homeless to a Foundation Communities apartment, and a representative of the United Methodist Church, Brooks Schuelke. Parker Lane was built on property where a Methodist Church stood for 60 years. When the church closed, UMC officials wanted the land to be used for affordable housing for families and community services to honor the charitable legacy of that congregation.

You can watch video of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at [foundcom.org/blog](http://foundcom.org/blog).

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

## Elected Officials and Inspired Client Join Kickoff of Prosper Tax Help Season

Since 2005, Foundation Communities has aided in filing more than 331,000 tax returns for Central Texans, delivering more than a half-billion dollars in refunds.



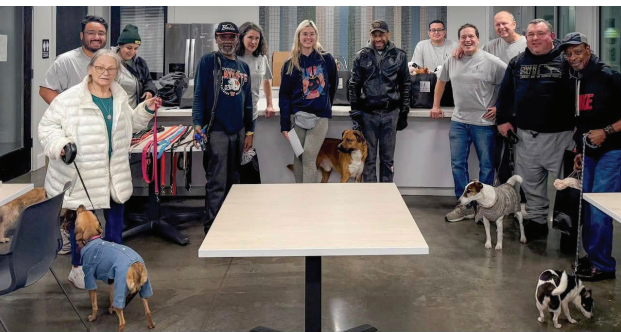
Congressman Lloyd Doggett, two Austin City Council members and others helped us kick off the 21st season for our Prosper Tax Help program. They urged Central Texans to visit a Prosper tax site where a certified tax preparer will help them get the maximum refund and claim all eligible tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families.

The service is free. Veteran Astrid McKinney said her experiences as a Prosper Tax Help client inspired her to volunteer this season. Read her story and watch video of the kickoff at [foundcom.org/blog](https://foundcom.org/blog).

Learn more and make an appointment at [ProsperTaxHelp.org](https://ProsperTaxHelp.org).

## We Need More Supper Clubs!

As Foundation Communities continues to grow we will need more groups to host Supper Clubs in our communities. It's fun! Members of the Missional groups from The Austin Stone Church - St John say they enjoy serving residents at Spring Terrace. Learn more and sign up at [foundcom.org/volunteer](https://foundcom.org/volunteer).



Residents of Waterloo Terrace and their emotional support dogs are taking a six-week obedience training course with Demi's Dream. This could be the first of many training courses for Foundation Communities residents.

## Disappointing News for our Health Coverage Program

The Trump administration has canceled the Insurance Navigation grant that largely funds our Health Coverage program, including \$2.4 million we were expecting for the next Open Enrollment period. This will have a big impact on families in Central Texas.

Prosper Health Coverage enrolled **6,853** Central Texans in affordable insurance plans in the 2023-2024 season. Most of our clients have complicated situations and need help to find the plan that works best for them. Our program is one of the most cost-efficient in the country (ranked **4th out of 56** programs) at just **\$268** per enrollee.

When it comes to helping our lower-income neighbors find critical assistance, Foundation Communities is resilient. We plan to continue our Health Coverage program with financial support from partner health institutions in Austin and more volunteers. Stay tuned to learn how you can help!



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 31 properties in Austin and North Texas.



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