



Mission Plaza
Austin, TX

IMPACT

December 2024

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foundcom.org

Let's Make the Holidays Brighter with Gifts, Rent Assistance

Most Central Texans will be able to purchase gifts for family and friends this holiday season. But for some, the financial picture isn't so clear. Crossroads Apartments resident Beatriz Zuniga's income is based on sales commissions, so it's unpredictable, especially during the holidays.

Last December, Beatriz and her three children received gift cards from Foundation Communities' Home for the Holidays program, thanks to generous donors. Beatriz used them to purchase clothes for her newborn baby and her teenaged daughter and son, as well as gifts. Sixteen-year-old Andrea says it was amazing.

"...just surrounded by the people we love, opening gifts and giving each other gifts," said Andrea. "Hopefully this year it will be the same."

This year, the family is hoping to get a sponsor who will fill their wish list. Andrea wants a digital camera...a pink one! Her brother Santiago wants video games, but they say they will appreciate anything they receive.

Over 700 Foundation Communities households have



requested holiday assistance this year, and hundreds are still waiting to be matched. Those who don't get sponsors will receive gift cards. You can sign up to be a sponsor through December 6, or make a donation at foundcom.org/home-for-the-holidays.

In mid-December, Home for the Holidays will begin asking for help to replenish Foundation Communities' Rent Assistance fund, which helps residents during financial hardships. Trails at the Park resident Omar Ramirez received assistance after his work hours were cut. He fell three months behind on rent, and says the program kept him from having to move far away from his children who live in the Austin area.

"Foundation Communities is truly watching out for the people that live in their apartment complexes," said Omar. "They certainly kept my family together."

By early November, **134 families** had received rent assistance through the program in 2024. About **38** did not receive help because the program had run out of money.

We Have Almost 10,000 Residents, and We're Still Growing!



Norma Azmitia and her daughter (on the right) attended a Grand Opening for Parker Lane Apartments on November 16. They are among the families who have moved into the new community. There are still apartments available for qualified applicants.

New Community Construction Updates

Parker Lane Apartments – 135-unit family community with a new Learning Center is complete. Leasing and move-ins are underway.

Juniper Creek Apartments – 110-unit family community adjacent to Laurel Creek Apartments is on track to finish construction in mid-2025.

Norman Commons Apartments – 156-unit family community adjacent to Norman-Sims Elementary School with a new Learning Center is on track to finish construction in late 2025.

Burleson Studios – 104-unit supportive housing community adjacent to a future Mobile Loaves & Fishes tiny home community is starting construction in December.

The Bloom Apartments – Collaborative housing + services redevelopment with Mary Lee Foundation on track for a late 2025 construction start.

Open Enrollment Begins with a Chorus of Support

Since 2013, Foundation Communities has helped more than 60,000 Central Texans enroll in affordable health insurance through the federal Marketplace. Open Enrollment for 2025 runs from November 1 through January 15. Prosper Health Coverage, the largest Navigator program in Central Texas, is poised to help thousands of our neighbors. "We take the stress out of finding the best insurance plan," said Erika Leos, Director of Prosper Programs.



Austin musician and HAAM member Raul Adrian Ochoa performed and spoke about the importance of health coverage at the kickoff.

There is a wide range of plans available, hundreds in Travis County. For some enrollees, the cost will be as little as \$0 a month after subsidies. On October 30, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Travis County Judge Andy Brown and Austin City Council Member Jose "Chito" Vela joined representatives of Foundation Communities and the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM) at Prosper Center South to kick off Open Enrollment. Doggett urged enrollment by December 15 to be sure coverage begins on January 1. Learn more at ProsperHealthCoverage.org

You can watch video of the entire kickoff event at foundcom.org/blog.

We Need You as a Tax Help Volunteer!

We are building a team of 500 volunteers to provide free tax prep services to our neighbors for the 2025 tax season, which starts in January. Please sign up at foundcom.org/volunteer-with-tax-help-program.

- No experience necessary
- Free, online, self-paced training beginning 12/19
- Flexible schedules
- Locations all over Austin and in Williamson County



Thank You Home Slice Pizza!

For the second year, Home Slice Pizza served up a fundraiser to support Foundation Communities' programs for residents. Dubbed "Doughvember," customers were asked to purchase select items on the menu and raffle tickets for prizes through December 3rd.

Spring Terrace 2-Miler Promotes Resident Fitness

Ten times around the building. For someone with health and mobility issues, it can be a challenge. It can also spark a new life-saving commitment to fitness. That's the goal of the Spring Terrace 2-Miler, an annual event organized by our Health Initiatives and Supportive Housing teams.

The event took place on Halloween, and residents from our Supportive Housing communities, many wearing costumes, converged at Spring Terrace to run, walk or roll around the building. The event also builds community. Staff and other residents came to encourage the participants. You can see pictures at foundcom.org/blog.



Spring Terrace resident and amputee Jameson Behrens doing the 2-Miler.



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 31 properties in Austin and North Texas.

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