

Austinite Finds Stability, Creativity through Supportive Housing

One of the original residents of our Zilker Studios supportive community for single adults, Kelas Lloyd recently reflected on the past several years. Kelas says there is no roadmap, that anyone's life can take surprising and devastating turns.

"In 1995, I was bitten by a tick and contracted Lyme disease," said Kelas. "My body began to fail me. About a decade later I was forced to go on disability."

Kelas says they quickly found that disability was not keeping up with the cost of living in Austin.

They shared housing costs with a roommate, until the roommate suddenly had to leave Austin. Kelas' lease was ending and they couldn't afford to renew. They planned to move into a room in a friend's home, but the friend just stopped responding to messages. Kelas was now homeless.

They checked into an extended stay hotel until they could camp out in another friend's home office temporarily. Their search for a long-term solution only turned up apartments that seemed "creepy or like a scam." Kelas remembers the anxiety of wondering what would happen if their friend needed them to move out of her house before something turned up. Were they headed for the street, like so many



others around Austin? Kelas wasn't sure they could survive that with the chronic pain they were living with. Then a life-changing call came. Foundation Communities was opening Zilker Studios and leasing affordable apartments for lower-income adults. Kelas quickly applied, not wanting to miss this opportunity, and moved in in the summer of 2023.

Now, Kelas participates in a variety of activities at Zilker Studios designed to foster a community spirit - the Resident Council, Coffee Hours, outings and events for residents.

Kelas says, "Living at Zilker Studios has been transformative. Before, I was just existing. Now, I'm able to seek out things I enjoy."

Staff at Zilker Studios introduced Kelas to the Art from the Streets organization. They now enjoy painting regularly and getting positive responses from their creative work. Also, Kelas has a new roommate, a cat named Ser Bartholomew.

On September 5, Kelas Lloyd spoke at the kickoff to support Proposition Q in Austin, sharing their experiences struggling to afford housing in Austin, and how supportive housing and services have made a huge difference in their life. You can watch their entire speech at foundcom.org/blog.

We're Supporting Proposition Q!

Foundation Communities has been at the forefront of addressing the housing affordability crisis in Austin, creating affordable and supportive housing with services that help families and individuals find stability and



The Love Austin campaign for Proposition Q kicked off at our Laurel Creek Apartments on Sept 5. Watch video at foundcom.org/blog.

success. So much more needs to be done. That's why we are asking Austin residents to vote FOR Proposition Q on November 4.

Proposition Q would allocate funding to create more shelter space and permanent supportive housing. It would also raise funds for parks, public safety and public health programs.

Make the Holidays Brighter for Austin Families

Our Home for the Holidays program ensures Foundation Communities residents are not left out of the warmth and joy of the giving season. Please make plans to join us this year and sponsor a family or donate. You can also raise funds for the program as a team with your family, friends and coworkers. Your gifts will help bring holiday joy to neighbors across Austin.



The sponsor signup form will be open Nov. 3 – Dec. 5.

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

Urgent Need for Health Coverage Volunteers

After losing \$2.4M in federal funding, Foundation Communities urgently needs volunteers to ensure Central Texans can access affordable health care. Our goal is to double our Health Coverage volunteer team from 100 to 200, in order to enroll more than 5,000 neighbors during Open Enrollment. Together, we can meet this challenge.

As volunteer Gail Romney (shown here) says, "Anyone seeking to make a positive difference in Austin need look no further than Foundation Communities." Open Enrollment starts November 1, so sign up today at foundcom.org/volunteer.



Thank You, Funders!

Still Water Foundation - \$350,000
Episcopal Health Foundation - \$300,000
City of Austin/Homeless Strategy Office - \$300,000
Anderson Foundation - \$250,000
Forever Austin Fund/Austin Community Foundation - \$50,000
Shield-Ayres Foundation - \$45,000
Rachel and Ben Vaughan Foundation - \$30,000

Opening Soon! Norman Commons Apartments



We are excited that it looks like we will be able to begin welcoming home families to Norman Commons Apartments in East Austin later this year. If you or someone you know is struggling with the cost of housing, now is the time to get on the interested list at foundcom.org/norman-commons.

Norman Commons is a beautiful and affordable development located next to Norman-Sims Elementary that features 156 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom apartments. Sixteen apartments will be deeply discounted and designated for families at-risk of homelessness through our Children's HOME Initiative. Residents will enjoy an array of amenities, including a community center for educational and health activities, a Healthy Food Pantry, and family nights, all at no additional cost. Please spread the word about Norman Commons Apartments.

Leaving a Legacy of Housing and Hope

When you decide to make the difficult end of life decisions about your estate, please consider a thoughtful legacy of affordable and supportive housing through a gift to Foundation Communities. It's a way to ensure that your compassion lives on.

Longtime Foundation Communities supporter Michele has added us to her estate planning. She says, "Not only do they provide a roof but the support folks need to thrive." Read more from Michele and learn how our Planned Giving program works at foundcom.org/planned-giving.



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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