

Family graduates to M Station, and college!



Karen Crawley, a bright, vivacious woman with an eye for decorating and a penchant for Betty Boop memorabilia, is not shy about giving advice to the single mothers she meets at her job every day. First, she tells them, never give up! Don't be ashamed. Get help. Then she hands them the phone number to Foundation Communities' Children's Home Initiative (CHI) – an 18-month supportive housing program designed to keep families with children out of homelessness. As a recent graduate of the program, she knows it works.

Karen and her husband of 20 years separated in the spring of 2009. Although employed as a preschool teacher, she and her two teenagers had no other option but to move in with her sister until she could find an affordable place to live on a single income.

The Texas Department of Human Services gave her a list of resources to explore. As Karen worked her way through the list, she was given all kinds of goofy (and hopeless) advice, like returning to her husband or renting an apartment she couldn't afford and staying until the landlord threw them out.



At Home, at M Station

Just as she was about to give up, she called Ariel Reynolds, CHI case manager at Foundation Communities. As a participant of the CHI program, Karen took financial management classes and developed the skills she needed to handle her own finances and create some short-term and long-term financial goals for herself.

Now Karen and both of her children are in college. Her daughter Ashley attends Austin Community College. Her son Dante just began his freshman year at Blinn College. Karen herself is attending ACC. She has worked at Seek & Say Enrichment Day Care for eight years, and is now working toward her Child Development Associate certification.

As a successful graduate of FC's CHI program, Karen decided to relocate to Foundation Communities' brand-new M Station property on East MLK. She was one of the first residents to move in on opening day this past July.

In just two short years, Foundation Communities helped Karen tap into her own capabilities and create a new, stable home, as well as a bright future, for herself and her children.

Help low-income Texans keep more money!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Financial Coaches - Help low-income families create concrete short and long-term financial goals, and provide them with the support to reach them.



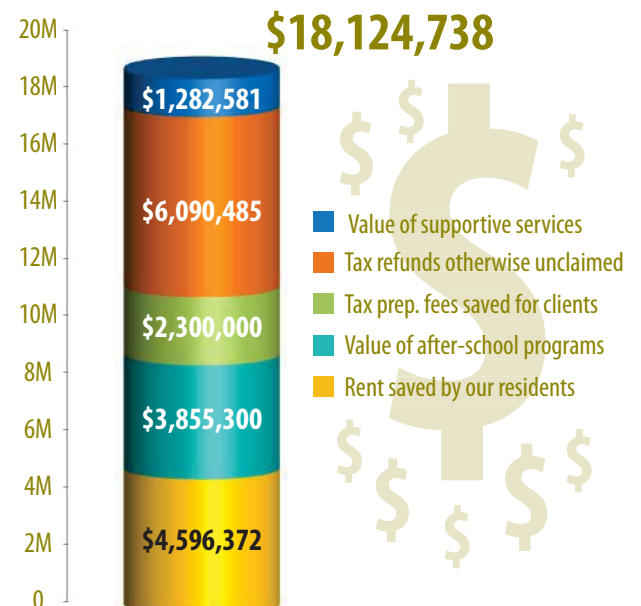
Tax Preparers - Help low-income families claim all the tax credits for which they are eligible, and give them the chance to build a financial future.

Financial Coaching training begins in October and Community Tax Center training begins in December (we're recruiting volunteers now!).

To sign up or for more information please contact Jackie Blair at jackie.blair@foundcom.org or visit the "Get Involved" section of our website at www.foundcom.org/get-involved

Saving the community MILLIONS

The projected value of our programs to communities in 2011:



Growing more than ever!

- **150 families are moving into our brand new, dream community – M Station!**

This property is super green with low utility bills, located by the new MLK train station, and has state-of-the-art learning and childcare centers on site. Over 100 families have moved in since opening in mid-July, including several families with children that were homeless or at high risk for homelessness, as part of our Children's Home Initiative. M Station has 15 apartments set aside for this program.



- **We bought the Sierra Vista apartment complex on South Congress recently** and we're finishing a \$10 million renovation of it. Sierra Vista has 238 units, including 24 apartments for families in the Children's Home Initiative who begin moving in this month!

- **We also just bought the Suburban Lodge, which will become Arbor Terrace**, our fourth supportive community for extremely low income or homeless adults, with 120 apartments.

- Over the past 18 months **we've been able to expand psychiatric care and substance abuse counseling for our Terrace residents**, resulting in a 25% reduction in EMS calls, and saving the city \$50,000 in EMS calls, in addition to untold savings in ER and hospital costs.

- **St. Elmo Elementary just became Exemplary Rated!** Over half of the kids there are from our **Sierra Ridge** and Sierra Vista communities. This is a huge feat for a school where 95% of the student population is economically disadvantaged and 60% do not speak English as a first language.

- **Our 2011 Back to School Drive raised over \$2,000 last month!** These funds are already helping our Learning Center kids succeed in school with many new text books and other needed supplies.



Foundation Communities is a nonprofit organization that empowers low-income families and individuals with the tools they need to succeed. Founded in 1989, Foundation Communities provides affordable apartments and duplexes to more than 2,700 families. We own 16 affordable housing communities, 13 in Austin with one more property under construction and three in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. We have also developed a model of service-enriched housing that enables families with low incomes to permanently improve their educational and financial standing.

Board of Directors

Danny Hamilton, Chair
Lew Aldridge
Theresa Alvarez
Socar Chatmon-Thomas
Tom Chmielewski
Christina G. Cohee
Charles DiTullio

Aubrey Gonzales
Debbie Knight
Freddy Marichal
Leslie Pearson
Jason Qunell
Gina Richardson
Alicia Wong

Walter Moreau, Executive Director

