



Press Release  
for immediate release

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## **Keep Austin Housed Re-Funded AmeriCorps Homelessness Project Serves 8 Non-profits**

**Austin, Texas** —23 AmeriCorps members have been recruited through the Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps Program to serve as case managers to homeless adults, families, and youth at 8 area nonprofits. The program's services are being reintroduced to Austin by Front Steps, the non-profit organization that manages the Austin Resource Center for the homeless and provides permanent supportive housing opportunities.

After Front Steps' seventh successful year with the Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps project, the program was discontinued in 2010 due to an AmeriCorps change in focus to youth educational attainment.

Despite enormous federal funding cuts, Front Steps re-applied for Keep Austin Housed funding through the One Star Foundation earlier this year and has been awarded a \$299,000 grant to re-start the program.

In today's economic climate, volunteer/service programs like AmeriCorps have become increasingly important in helping nonprofit organizations fill crucial gaps in services. Kameron Fowler, LMSW, Program Director for Front Steps, sees the AmeriCorps program as a saving grace to social services programs. "Agencies are all feeling hard hits from recent and upcoming budget cuts and many are experiencing a reduction in contributions and resources - all the while seeing an increase in the number of those becoming homeless for the first time. Some of these programs would no longer exist without the service provided by our AmeriCorps members," Fowler said.

At Casa Marianella and Posada Esperanza, six AmeriCorps members will increase case management services by over 50%. At Safe Place, three members will work with homeless teenagers and young adults in the transitional shelter, emergency shelter, and resource center. Three members will assist Caritas with Permanent Supportive Housing programs. At Front Steps (ARCH), two members will serve in crucial case management roles and will implement the Cold Weather Shelter Program while managing blanket distribution throughout the winter months.

AmeriCorps members commit a year of their lives to service and in return receive a living stipend, money for college, professional development opportunities, and health care and childcare for full-time members. Front Steps is currently seeking food donations for monthly trainings and professional development seminars for members.

More information is available at <http://www.frontsteps.org/what-we-do/keep-austin-housed.html> or by calling the Keep Austin Housed Program Coordinator Miranda Spiro, LMSW at 512-694-4546.

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**ABOUT FRONT STEPS:**

Front Steps is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a pathway to hope through shelter, affordable housing and community education. Front Steps manages the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), the Central Texas Recuperative Care Center, and the Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps Program, as well as three HUD permanent supportive housing programs.

<http://www.frontsteps.org>

**ABOUT AMERICORPS:**

Keep Austin Housed, one of Austin's AmeriCorps programs, is part of a network of local, state and national service programs started in 1993 when President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act into law. Since that time more than 400,000 men and women have volunteered at more than 2,000 public agencies and private and faith-based organizations throughout the U.S. tutoring, improving health services, building affordable housing, teaching computer skills, cleaning parks and streams, managing after school programs, responding to disasters and in Austin, helping the community to positively impact the crises of homelessness.

<http://www.americorps.gov>

**ABOUT ONESTAR FOUNDATION:**

OneStar Foundation supports the nonprofit sector and its stakeholders through initiatives that increase civic engagement, research, rigorous evaluation and nonprofit organizational excellence with a goal of achieving sustainable social impact throughout the larger nonprofit infrastructure. OneStar Foundation administers the AmeriCorps\*Texas program which has placed thousands of members with nonprofit organizations, leveraging volunteers to help those organizations tackle social challenges in communities throughout Texas.

<http://www.onestarfoundation.org>

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