



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keep Austin Housed Homeless Wellness Fair a Success

3rd Annual Day of Wellness Honored MLK's Commitment to Service

Austin, TX – In remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps members hosted the 3rd Annual Day of Wellness, providing a respectful setting to advance the health and well-being of Austin's homeless adults. Keep Austin Housed is a program of Front Steps.

After two months of preparing for the event, 24 Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps volunteers were able to meet several needs of our homeless neighbors while also involving the wider community. More than 100 volunteers from all over Austin, including two additional AmeriCorps groups (Goodwill and Catholic Charities), participated by providing a variety of helpful services to the more than 400 individuals who attended the event in downtown Austin.

Aside from serving warm meals to the attendees, the Keep Austin Housed Day of Wellness celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of service by contributing these much-needed, basic forms of care:

- Distributed 900 pairs of shoes, 350 jackets, 100 backpacks, 900 pairs of socks, and 300 toiletry kits
- Gave more than 300 haircuts
- Offered foot care exams, massages, STD screenings, speech/hearing screenings, and on-site case management services for housing and medical access
- Entertained with spoken word poetry, a slide show on MLK's message, and educated the public about AmeriCorps and Keep Austin Housed

Keep Austin Housed is grateful for Austin's generous and warm spirit, which helped them meet their goals of serving the needs of Austin's homeless adults in a friendly, caring environment.

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ABOUT FRONT STEPS:

Front Steps is a nonprofit organization that manages the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), the Central Texas Recuperative Care Program, and the Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps Program, as well as transitional and permanent housing programs. Front Steps was founded in 1997 as the Capital Area Homeless Alliance. Its mission is to provide a pathway home through shelter, affordable housing, and community education. More information can be found at <http://www.frontsteps.org>.

ABOUT KEEP AUSTIN HOUSED:

The Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps Program was founded in 2003 to address the issues of an estimated 4,000 homeless single adults, families, and youth living on the streets in Austin/Travis County. The AmeriCorps members engage clients of eight local nonprofit organizations in a process that empowers them to obtain and/or maintain permanent affordable housing and improve personal stability through the development of effective life skills. In addition, AmeriCorps members educate the community-at-large on issues related to homelessness and access the support of community volunteers, in-kind donations, and financial contributions. For more information, please visit <http://www.KeepAustinHoused.org>.