



Caritas of Austin IMPACT REPORT

Vocational Support Leads to Success



When Onel arrived in Austin last May, he was determined to get on a successful career path with Caritas of Austin’s help.

In Cuba, he worked as an aircraft technician and holds his Bachelor’s degree in Aviation.

“I have never had a client as motivated as Onel has been to further his education and obtain professional certification. From day one, he was willing to do anything it took to go to school,” said Fuad, Onel’s employment specialist at Caritas.

As is the case with many individuals resettling in Austin from around the world, Onel must restart his career from the ground up since most certifications and professional experience do not transfer.

Caritas’ Employment team often works with refugees who were lawyers, doctors, and engineers in their home country. While these individuals may have to find an entry level job to begin with, the Caritas team also supports their transition back into their field of practice through education and certification.

Because of Onel’s professional background, the Caritas team explored various vocational training options to help Onel advance his career in Austin. The Austin Career Institute offers a 4-month HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) program that interested Onel. The program is taught in Spanish and includes an English proficiency component, which was a perfect fit for his needs.

Because of your generosity, Caritas of Austin was able to underwrite Onel’s HVAC certification program. In August, Onel began the program on weekends, and he works in apartment construction and maintenance during the week. *Story continued on page 3*

“Caritas has given me much advice and support and helped me get a job I hoped for.”

25th Annual ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot

On December 15, 2015 ThunderCloud Subs presented Caritas of Austin with a check for **\$295,000**. To date the ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot has raised nearly \$3 million for Caritas of Austin. Turkey Trot participants have helped Caritas to continue to provide services and programs to our neighbors in need, including employment, education, and housing services. This year, some participants even raised funds for Caritas of Austin on their own.

Of the event, Caritas of Austin Executive Director Jo Kathryn Quinn said: "Caritas of Austin is grateful for the longstanding partnership of Thundercloud Subs Turkey Trot. Both 'Austin originals' have been pairing up for this Thanksgiving tradition for 25 years, and the money raised has served some of Austin's most vulnerable families since those early days. **I am amazed and my heart is warmed by the loyal support of Austinites for our work.**"

The ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot once again served as an excellent reminder that our community is dedicated to seeing all Austin residents achieve self-sufficiency. Thank you to the sponsors who make the ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot possible: **ThunderCloud Subs, Stepping Stone School, First Texas Honda, Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop and many others.**



Support Leads to Success - *Continued*

After completing the program, Onel will be able to build on his current job and begin specializing in more technical work. With Austin's warm climate, HVAC professionals are in very high demand and typically earn a minimum of \$15 per hour.

Helping people obtain jobs that earn a living wage is a priority of Caritas' Employment team, and it takes community employment partners in all industries to open doors to these opportunities.

Fuad said Onel's enthusiasm to succeed pushed him even further to help him do whatever it takes to accomplish his goals.

Onel said Fuad and other Caritas staff members have been invaluable during his first months in the United States. "They are all wonderful. They have given me much advice and support and helped me get a job I hoped for. All of their services help people get ahead."

In a year, he hopes to advance both in his professional skills and his English proficiency. He is well on his way thanks to your support!

Your generosity made it possible to serve people in our community like Onel. If you are interested in learning more about Caritas of Austin's Employment program, contact Amitiss Mahvash at amahvash@caritasofaustin.org.

UPDATE: Ending Veteran Homelessness in Austin

Last August, Austin Mayor Steve Adler took on the national mayoral challenge to house all 234 homeless veterans in the city of Austin by the end of 2015. In spite of tireless and inspiring efforts, our community has not yet reached this goal. **But, we are getting close!**

Caritas of Austin, partner agencies, and the real estate community working together has helped drastically reduce the number of homeless veterans, and we believe we will reach our goal in 2016.

This incredible progress is a direct result of your support and belief that those who have served our country should not go without.

There is still much work to be done in coming months, and you will be the first to know when we do accomplish this important milestone!



ABOUT US

Caritas of Austin supports people on their journey out of crisis toward self-sufficiency through housing, food, education, and employment services. Each year, our services intersect with thousands of individuals and families to help empower people toward the life they want.

OUR VISION

We envision a community where there is respect for all individuals, hope for those experiencing poverty, and opportunities for self-reliance.

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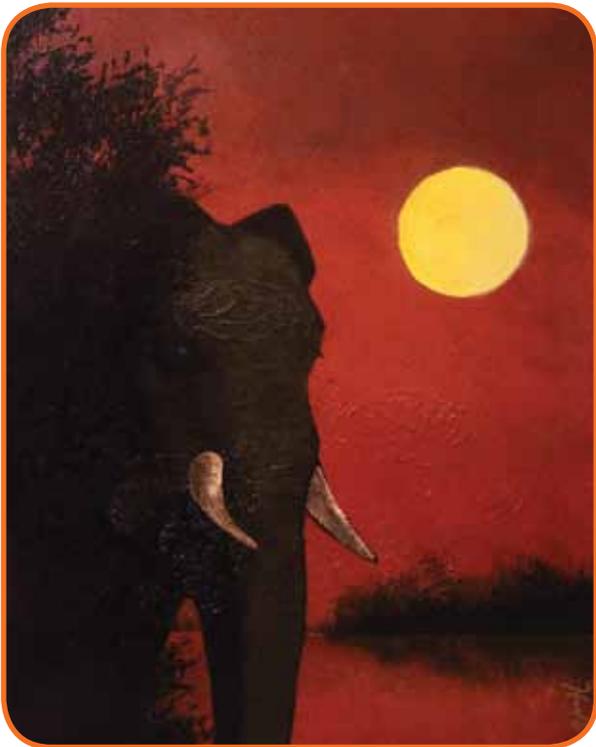


P. O. Box 1947
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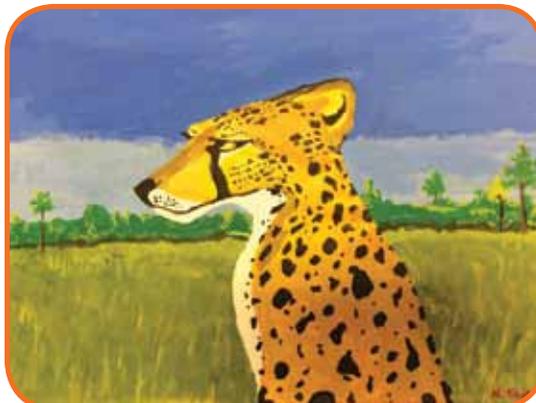
Caritas of Austin **IMPACT REPORT**

Read inside about the lives being changed because of your support!



The People's Gallery 2016 Exhibition

Austin City Hall's annual art show, the People's Gallery, will feature a special exhibition of artwork by Caritas of Austin clients. A total of fourteen works will be on display from five artists who have once experienced homelessness. We have an extraordinarily talented pool of artists, and we are excited to be sharing their work with the public. The exhibition opens February 26 at Austin City Hall and will run through the end of the year.



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