

Good evening, my name is Daniel Hinojosa, and I am here today to testify on behalf of Southwest Key Programs, Inc. As the career services coordinator for Southwest Key's East Austin Children's Promise, I organize and facilitate quality programming to the adults of East Austin's Govalle/Johnston Terrace communities.

Southwest Key has made a considerable investment toward our goal of Community Revitalization for East Austin's under-developed Govalle/Johnston Terrace neighborhood, with an objective to create much needed jobs and economic opportunities for this low-income community. We are seeking funding to allow us to continue the success of our programs and ask you to consider a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant to further improve the quality of life in East Austin.

This grant would be used to complete construction on our Social Enterprise Complex, an economic development center to house many of the programs the East Austin Children's Promise has successfully implemented. The Social Enterprise Complex would allow us to expand our programs that help East Austin job seekers overcome barriers to employment and economic security and give them the opportunity to succeed. A fully-equipped Computer Technology Center, ESL and GED classes, computer training, and job-seeking skill development programs will be housed in the Social Enterprise Complex.

Through the completion and programming that the Social Enterprise Complex will house, swkey will be able to create 100 new jobs in the next three years and hundreds more in the years to come. The current construction of the Social Enterprise Complex has already created 60 new construction-related jobs. Today, we employ 141 Austin residents, and we plan to increase to 169 employees in 2012 with an annual payroll of \$14.3 million.

I would like to take the time to provide just two examples of people whose lives were significantly improved by the East Austin Children's Promise and Southwest Key programs and will continue to improve with your help in completing our social enterprise complex.

The first is Santos Martinez. Santos began working for Southwest Key's Janitorial Service three years ago. Southwest Key is one of the very few organizations to provide opportunities for people who have been incarcerated, like Santos. Despite his past, Southwest Key has provided opportunities for both professional and personal growth to Santos, like his membership in the East Austin Leadership Development Program and his recently acquired OSHA certificate. The leadership skills Santos is developing in these programs are already apparent in practice. Many times this year he has spoken at City Hall and other community events to improve the eastside community and he was recently promoted to Head of Maintenance at Southwest Key. Santos' son will be moving to the 7th grade this year at the East Austin College Prep Academy, a charter school founded by Southwest Key, and will continue to watch his father grow and develop into a role model for him and others in the community.

The second is Edward Dawson. Edward first came to Southwest Key to take part in the food distribution from the Mobile Food Pantry held there every month. While there, he

learned about the OSHA certificate program offered by the East Austin Children's Promise and enrolled so he could find a better job to support his family. After receiving his OSHA certificate, Edward enrolled in the adult GED program. Today, Edward continues to expand his education by attending workshops on financial literacy and workers' rights and is scheduled to complete the adult GED program at the end of this month.

The East Austin Children's Promise and Southwest Key Programs, are centered on the success of the youth and adults of the East Austin neighborhood. We firmly believe that by providing the tools and resources to success, resources like employment training, career opportunities, and a quality education, the youth and the families of this community will eventually be able to lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty. With the support of local partners and entities like you, we have and continue to bring quality programming that brings these opportunities to their doorstep.

Please consider our request to help the East Austin community. Thank you for your time.