



Impact Austin Newsletter

February 2007

Greetings!

This newsletter includes the following articles:

* Message From the President * Discovery Day Success! * Girls Giving Grants Update * Save the Date: Meeting for New Members on April 3, 2007 at 7 pm! * Literacy Austin Opens Center Remodeled with 2006 Impact Austin Grant * 2007 Grants Update

Message from the President

So, here we are! Almost four years into this initiative called Impact Austin. In June, we will award \$416,000 in grants which puts the cumulative total at \$1,067,000 since extending our first grant in June, 2004. That's cause for celebration! I treasure each of you for your willingness to climb aboard and share the journey with me.



With your help and continued support, we will extend a \$100,000 grant in each of our five focus areas in June, 2008—a goal the founding board members set back in May, 2003. That milestone is significant, but it's not the end of the story.

We have embarked on our next three-year strategic planning process, and we look forward to sharing that plan with you when it is finalized in late September. We believe a disciplined approach to mapping out our future will lead to Impact Austin making a unique contribution in our community for years to come.

We continue to attract an amazing array of women with varied backgrounds and experiences. We value differing opinions and creative approaches to addressing issues. Please continue to tell your friends about Impact Austin--sharing your experience as a member is persuasive beyond measure.

Literacy Austin Opens Center Remodeled with 2006 Impact Austin Grant



Photographed above from left to right: Dawn Skinner and Kathleen Mack (IA Board members), Sarah Swords (Literacy Austin Board member and IA member), Emily Williams (Literacy Austin student), Dina Mavridis (IA Board member), Sarah Land (IA member), and Irene Garcia (Literacy Austin tutor).

There was not a dry eye in Literacy Austin's brand new conference room after two adult literacy students shared what learning to read had meant to them. Emily Williams explained that she had only been able to go to school through the fourth grade and could not help her children with their homework. She used to feel so isolated and embarrassed because of her lack of education but now she is much more confident around other people. Fellow

Gratefully,
Rebecca Powers

Discovery Day Success!



Paul Hilgers, Director of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office for the City of Austin, discusses the challenges of providing affordable housing for low-income/working-poor adults and families.

On Saturday, January 20, 2007, eleven community experts addressed 93 Impact Austin members on topics ranging from arts education and water quality to primary and preventive healthcare. Member Kathy Strand, who sits on a Focus Area Committee, shared her impression of the educational forum, "The presenters gave me a perspective of the size and scope of the needs in our area. It really made me enthusiastic about beginning the grant review process."

Discovery Day is the first in a series of educational forums Impact Austin will offer its members. Be on the lookout for more learning opportunities as the year progresses. Learning enhances who we are--a thoughtful group of women who want to make a positive difference. Remember...we can't change what we don't know!

student Norma Barcenas said that now she can talk to her children's teachers about their school work because of her classes at Literacy Austin and can read the menu in restaurants.

These students were the highlight of the ribbon cutting ceremony at Literacy Austin's remodeled Center, financed primarily by the \$108,000 Impact Austin grant with additional support from the Lola Wright Foundation and the Tocker Foundation. The Center now boasts four new class rooms and a large conference room which increases the student capacity by 50%.

Literacy Austin's Executive Director Gail Harmon, current board president Ricardo Soliz, and past president Kathleen Hamilton, expressed their deep thanks to Impact Austin, especially the members present, including Rebecca Powers who responded by saying how wonderful it was to see the results of everyone's efforts and how pleased Impact Austin is to be a partner in advancing the mission of Literacy Austin.

Literacy Austin invites Impact Austin members to come by and see the new center any time. For more information, please contact Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel at lisakay.pfannenstiel@literacyaustin.org

Girls Giving Grants Update



ARC #3 members: Sarah Daly, Caroline Tulloh, Kelsey Huguen and Stephanie Collins.

The girls have chosen four grant applicants to move to the semi-finalist stage:

- Austin Public Library Foundation
- Southwest Key Program, Inc
- Center for Child Protection
- EmanciPet, Inc.

The committees will now present their semi-finalists to the G3 membership at large for a vote to determine the two finalists for site visits in April. The girls are working hard to select the right group to receive their funds, and it shows in the photograph above.

If you know a member of Girls Giving Grants, please take a moment to commend her for her commitment and dedication. These young women have done a superb job of thoroughly and thoughtfully reviewing the applications, doing so in balance with their winter finals, ice-storms, a myriad of school and social activities and the holidays. They are super women!

Stay tuned for more G3 highlights. We will extend our second grant April, 2007. For more information on Girls Giving Grants, please contact Lisa Lyons at llyons@girlsgivinggrants.org

Save the Date: Meeting for New Members on April 3, 2007, at 7 pm!

For any member who wants to learn more about Impact Austin. Even if you have been to an informational 'coffee' before, you are welcome to attend and get a refresher course. We will talk about:

- Grant review process (currently in progress)
- Yearly calendar
- Annual Meeting on June 7, 2007
- Optional ways to participate
- Past grant recipients and their programs
- Burning questions you want answered

Meeting will be held at the home of Rebecca Powers, 11107 Callanish Park Drive, Austin, TX 78750. Please

2007 Grants Update

The first phase of Impact Austin's 2007 Grant Evaluation process is complete. The five Focus Area Committees (FACs) have invited 25 of the 129 organizations who submitted Letters of Inquiry to move forward. The following organizations will submit grant applications for consideration as one of this year's four \$104,000 grant recipients:

CULTURE

- Austin Classical Guitar Society
- Austin Shakespeare Festival
- Rude Mechanicals Theatre Collective
- Salvage Vanguard Theater

EDUCATION

- Austin Children's Shelter
- Austin YMBL Sunshine Camps
- Breakthrough
- College Forward
- Southwest Key Program
- The Khabele School

ENVIRONMENT

- CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas
- Concordia University at Austin
- Ecology Action of Texas
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

FAMILY

- Adoption Coalition of Texas
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Huston-Tillotson University
- Partnerships for Austin Children in Crisis
- Wonders & Worries

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Front Steps
- Indigent Care Collaboration (ICC)
- Meals on Wheels and More
- Services for the Elderly
- Sustainable Food Center
- YouthLaunch

Grant applications are due on Monday, March 12, 2007. In the next phase, the FACs will review the applications and select semi-finalists for site visits to take place in the last two weeks of April. Many thanks to the FAC members for their hard work so far (and more to come)!

make a reservation by sending an email to:
rpowers@impact-austin.org

Dina Mavridis, Director of Marketing Communications
Impact Austin

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