



Newsletter

ordinary women...extraordinary impact

May 2006

Register now for the Annual Meeting!



Everyone, including (from left) Beth Myler, Kim Weidmann and Ellen Balthazar, had a great time at last year's dinner. This year the format is different, but the enjoyment will be even better!

Thursday, June 8, 2006
Norris Conference Center
5:45pm – 9:00pm

Please join us for the third Annual Meeting on June 8. If you have not RSVP'd, please do so by sending an email to: events@impact-austin.org or by calling 335-5540. If you haven't received your postcard invitation, please send an email to: cmoreland@impact-austin.org.

This year, during the social hour,

each finalist will be manning an information table. That way, any member who has questions about a finalist's proposal or organization will have time to get answers before the presentations start. There will be no "Q & A" during the presentation portion of the meeting this year.

Girls Giving Grants awards its first grant!

On April 20th, *Girls Giving Grants* awarded its inaugural grant to the Austin Children's Shelter. The \$2100 grant will fund gift cards for clothing and necessities for 42 children and adolescents admitted to the Shelter. The Shelter serves over 300 clients per year and provides a safe, transitional home, food and clothing, as well as coordinating medical treatment, counseling, therapy and educational continuity. Learn more about the Shelter by visiting www.austinchildrenshelter.org <<http://www.austinchildrenshelter.org>> .

Girls Giving Grants thanks its friends and supporters:

- Our families for being so supportive of the GGG mission.
- Vignette Corporation for providing our meeting space.
- Wendi and Brian Kushner for sponsoring the Awards Dinner.
- *Impact Austin* for its mentoring and enthusiasm.



(left to right) Gena VanOsselaer, Executive Director of Austin Children's Shelter and Girls Giving Grants members, Laura Sweitzer, Brittany Burch, Miriam Kalk, Miranda Hoffman

The next grant cycle begins in August, 2006. If you know a young woman, who will be in 8th-12th grade during the 2006/2007 academic year and who might be interested in learning more about *Girls Giving Grants*, please contact Lisa Lyons at llyons@impact-austin.org for details.

Stay tuned for more news and highlights of this amazing journey in grant-making!

Words

from
Rebecca



I've had this little saying on my desk since Christmas, and I wanted to share it with you.

The definition of Grace: How you climb up the mountain is just as important as how you get down the mountain.

And, so it is with life, which for many of us becomes one big gigantic test followed by one big gigantic lesson. In the end, it all comes down to one word: Grace. It's how you accept winning and losing, good luck and bad luck, the darkness and the light.

As *Impact Austin* grows, it is so important that we *Grow with Grace*. As members, we'll have moments of darkness and moments of light. Times when we'll feel like we've won, and times when we'll feel like we've lost.

On June 8, we will have the distinct privilege of listening to presentations from our five non-profit finalists and casting our votes. All of the finalists are worthy of our money, but only three will receive grants. Please keep in mind that we each have passions, beliefs and life experiences that will dictate our individual votes. However, it's each member's *graceful* acceptance of the will of our membership that makes this process meaningful and makes *Impact Austin* a place that attracts phenomenal women like you. I look forward to celebrating the successful conclusion of Year #3 with you on June 8. Your faithful support of our mission, vision and values continues to make us better!

As a board, we will be working hard over the summer, behind the scenes, making improvements to our current operations and refining our strategic plan. The next newsletter will be distributed in August, and we should have lots of interesting updates for you! As always, please know how much I value each of you and your commitment to the cause! Here's to 400+ women by December 31, 2006—all for Pete's sake!

2006 Grant Finalists

We are thrilled to announce that our Focus Area Committees have completed their grant review and site visits, and have chosen the five finalists that our members will vote on to receive Impact Austin's three \$108,000 grants!

The finalists in each focus area are:

• Culture

Zachary Scott Theatre Center

Zachary Scott Theatre Center (ZACH) proposes to implement an apprentices program to mentor teens, who are recent dropouts or are at-risk of finishing high school, in all aspects of theatre.

• Education

Literacy Austin

Literacy Austin proposes to increase classroom capacity and implement additional remote service programs to support clients for their English as a Second Language (ESL) and Basic Literacy programs.

• Environment

Emancipet, Inc.

EmanciPet Spay & Neuter Clinic proposes to add an additional surgery suite and associated transport vans to their Headquarters facility. This expansion would help them achieve their goal of making Austin the 2nd "No-Kill" city in the US.

• Family

Austin YMBL Sunshine Camps

Austin YMBL Sunshine Camps proposes to replace their existing Arts & Crafts building in Zilker Park and re-cover an existing Sports Court, both used to accomplish many of the camp's goals.

• Health and Wellness

Children's Wellness Center

The University of Texas School of Nursing Children's Wellness Center (CWC) proposes to help young women in Del Valle pursue a health care career by funding a training, employment and mentoring program.



Member voting packets containing Finalist Reports and information on each of the five nonprofits will be arriving in the mail next week. Please read all of the material you receive in preparation for voting on your selection for our three grant recipients—you should be familiar with the proposed programs prior to attending the Annual Meeting on June 8. We are counting on seeing all of our members at the Annual Meeting, but we do understand that there are some of you who will not be able to attend. Not to worry, we have included details in your voting packets that explain how to vote absentee if you can't make it!

If you do not receive your member packet, or if you have any questions about Impact Austin's voting process, feel free to contact Cindy Hart at chart@impact-austin.org.

Recognition

On April 17, 2006 Rebecca Powers, fifth from left, was chosen as one of KVUE's *Five Who Care* community service award recipients for her volunteerism in *Impact Austin*, as well as Trinity Center's Eye Clinic for the Homeless and the Rotary Club of Austin's mentoring program.



Impact Austin Newsletter is published by Impact Austin, a non-profit organization exempt from federal taxes under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

For more information on Impact Austin, contact us at 512-335-5540, or visit us at www.impact-austin.org.



Dear Daisy



Why doesn't *Impact Austin* extend smaller grants to the finalists that are not selected to receive the large grants at our Annual Meeting?

—*Stumped*

Dear Stumped,

This is a suggestion that we hear from a few members each year, often prompted by sympathy for those finalists who went through our demanding process without receiving a grant at the end. As with all suggestions received from members, the board has considered the idea.

In 2003, the founding board members spent quite a bit of time defining what *Impact Austin* is and how it operates. Like other *Impact* organizations around the country, one of the rules adopted originally is that we divide the total member donations (your \$1,000) equally among the grantees selected by the membership at the Annual Meeting to fund grants of at least \$100,000. We are unusual in giving those large, \$100,000+ grants rather than dividing the money up into smaller pieces, but large grants are fundamental to having the “high-impact” on our community that defines us and differentiates us from other funders. Small grants matter, and we are glad that nonprofits can get small grants from other funders, but they are not who we are or what we do. If we gave small grants of some amount to the finalists who weren't chosen as grantees by our members, it wouldn't be enough to seed the projects they had submitted to us and would basically go into the nonprofits' general funds. We would have no assurance that the project they had submitted to us would ever get off the ground. That means some members' donations would be going for some use that had not been specifically investigated or selected by *Impact Austin*.

Finally, we recognize that this suggestion is often based on a desire to, in some small way, compensate the nonprofit for all the time spent in the grant process. However, past finalists have made it clear that they receive valuable benefits from going through the process even if they don't receive funds directly from *Impact Austin* (not that they would turn any funds down if we offered them!). They get their story before the hundreds of women in *Impact Austin* who may be potential volunteers or donors, or may have helpful connections. Although we don't formally collect data on what donations of time and money have occurred as a result of nonprofits' participation, we know anecdotally of finalists receiving thousands of dollars in additional donations as well as additional volunteers. Perhaps the best indication that past finalists have found the experience valuable for more than the money is the fact that they typically reapply in subsequent years.

Daisy

Any future questions or concerns for *Impact Austin* can be directed to:
deardaisy@impact-austin.org.



Membership recruitment for 2007 is off to a great start!

We have been busy recruiting new members this spring. The *Impact Austin* Board hosted a coffee at Grape Vine Market and several members have hosted them as well. Special thanks to **Kathryn Burch, Patti Schaub, Susan Steffes, Colleen Ogilvie, Mary Brooker, Suzy Gardner and Sarita and Karen Kuykendall** for inviting women into their homes to hear the *Impact Austin* story as we work to grow our membership to 400+ women.

Look for your Member Commitment card in your packet at the Annual Meeting on June 8. This will be your opportunity to tell us that you want to continue your membership in 2007. We look forward to a great year and lots of fun as we continue to inform women in Austin about our organization!

If you have any questions regarding membership or coffees, please email Dawn Skinner at dskinner@impact-austin.org.

