

# Grant Outcomes Report

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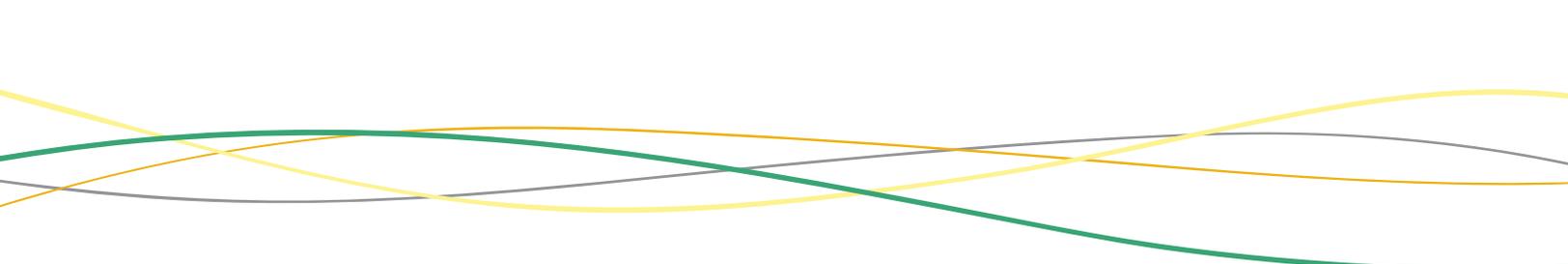
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*Ordinary women...extraordinary impact®*



**DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,**

We invite you to read our Grant Outcomes Report outlining how our Community Partners implemented their plans. We hope you will be inspired by their results. This issue features six Impact Austin Community Partners and one Girls Giving Grants Community Partner, whose grant programs were completed as of May 2014.

Our support of these organizations reflects our commitment to transform lives in our Central Texas community. We have learned alongside our Community Partners as they have faced challenges, overcome barriers, and achieved extraordinary successes. The lasting friendships developed as a result of these partnerships have changed forever our hearts individually and as an organization.

We thank members from the Community Partners Committee and Marketing Committee for creating this report. It is through the successful execution of our Community Partners that we can continue to deepen our commitment to the Central Texas community in a meaningful way!

Sincerely,



Donna Benson-Chan  
Impact Austin Interim Executive Director

## PARAMOUNT & STATE THEATRES



### Literacy to Life

Focus Area.....**Culture**

Grant Amount.....**\$108,400**

Grant Year.....**2011**

Grant Period.....**9/1/2011 – 8/31/2013**

Website.....**[www.austintheatre.org](http://www.austintheatre.org)**

The Paramount and State Theatres engage children throughout Central Texas, cultivating a lifelong appreciation of the arts through their Education & Outreach Programs.

The Impact Austin grant was awarded to fund the expansion of the Literacy to Life program, an eight-week workshop in 3rd and 4th grade classrooms that uses drama, storytelling, and writing exercises to help students develop writing skills and celebrate the power of their imaginations. At the end of the workshops, an ensemble of professional actors honors the creative voices of these students by bringing their writing to life in an energetic production for the whole school to see.

The Paramount and State Theatres sought to reach 400 students during each year of the grant period as well as deliver final performances to 4,000 students by the end of the period. Both of these goals were either realized or surpassed, with 434 students from 22 classrooms participating in the program during the 2012-2013 period, and some 4,000 students attending the final performances. These figures demonstrate a significant boost from the 2010-2011 period, when 141 students from seven classrooms took part in the program and 1,000 students attended the final performances. Furthermore, during the full grant period, the number of participating students totaled 686, while there were 27 teachers engaged in the program. This strong participation also led to improved academic performance; students' writing skills and attitudes towards reading and writing as well as their creativity levels and engagement in the classroom were assessed both before and after the program with statistically significant increases reported with the metrics applied. Moreover, Literacy to Life encountered an unanticipated benefit from this project. Due to an initial challenge of achieving consistent levels of teacher engagement in the program, the Paramount and State Theatres began a pre-residency orientation for participating teachers, resulting in a stronger professional development component.

**A STORY FROM PARAMOUNT AND STATE THEATRES:** *Ben Bazan, a teaching artist for Literacy to Life, noticed towards the end of the residency at Hart Elementary that there was a desk that had all the traces of a student working at it, but that was always empty while he was in the classroom. He inquired about the desk and asked why that student wasn't a part of the Literacy to Life program. The teacher soberly mentioned that Juan had recently been recovering from cancer and had to go to tutorials to catch up. Ben decided to go to Hart on days that worked for Juan, and together, they worked on writing a story about his fight against cancer. Juan became excited about this story describing how he was a superhero defeating evil monsters and how it was to be continued...He couldn't wait to share it with the school! When the Literacy to Life teaching artists produced and performed Juan's story for Hart's students, teachers, and parents, it was met with thunderous applause!*

## AUSTIN PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



**6th Grade Reading Classroom Coaching**  
Focus Area.....**Education**  
Grant Amount.....**\$108,400**  
Grant Year.....**2011**  
Grant Period.....**7/1/2011 – 5/31/2013**  
Website.....**[www.austinpartners.org](http://www.austinpartners.org)**

Austin Partners in Education (APIE)'s mission is to create and foster effective community and school partnerships that provide all AISD students preparation for college and career.

The Impact Austin grant funded a pilot project, Reading Stars, under the umbrella of APIE's 6th Grade Reading Coaching Program. The Reading Coaching program empowers 6th grade students to become stronger, independent readers through Reading Classroom Coaching (RCC). Through Reading Stars, students worked weekly with their Classroom Coach to perfect their reading and then had the opportunity to star in their own book on tape. This program sought to impact 500 6th graders at Webb and Burnet Middle schools that were reading below grade level by improving their reading proficiency by more than one grade level as well as strengthening their fluency and comprehension skills. The program also targeted the donation of 100 books on tape to a partner elementary school to support the reading skills of 3rd and 4th graders.

During the grant period, APIE served 700 students, a 40% increase over the stated target of 500 students, resulting in 11,584 student hours of reading coaching. Based on teacher and volunteer feedback solicited by Shore Research, 91% of volunteers and 100% of teachers believed that students demonstrated heightened knowledge and skills as a result of the RCC program. Moreover, 100% of teachers during the first year of the grant saw improved academic performance on the part of the students involved in the program, while preliminary survey results for the second year revealed that 96% of teachers and 94% of volunteers agreed the program had a positive impact on the students. The main obstacle encountered during the grant period involved the Reading Stars books on tape initiative, which was significantly hindered due to copywriting issues. While a total of 309 students participated in the program over the two-year period, only 62 of the recorded books were cleared for distribution. Although the number of recordings for distribution to partner elementary schools fell short of expectations, APIE was able to donate 309 copies of books to AISD elementary and middle school libraries as a result of this project.

**A STORY FROM APIE:** *Antonio's success as a volunteer can be summed up in one short story: last year, a student in his group at Webb Middle School made at least three years of growth in reading in a single school year. Antonio's personal investment in this student made this incredible achievement possible. Not only is this student a fluent reader, but she also has the confidence to be a more engaged and active learner. Antonio's thoughtful approach to working with young students will enable more students across Austin to experience meaningful school success.*

## CAMP FIRE USA BALCONES COUNCIL



**Family Nature Clubs (formerly Camp Fire Kids Unplugged)**  
Focus Area.....**Environment**  
Grant Amount.....**\$108,400**  
Grant Year.....**2011**  
Grant Period.....**6/1/2011 – 5/31/2013**  
Website.....**www.camp-fire.org**

Camp Fire USA Balcones Council builds caring, confident youth and future leaders, developing the whole child and strengthening the family through diverse service-learning programs.

Impact Austin's grant funded the Balcones Council's establishment of 10 Camp Fire Kids Unplugged clubs (currently known as Family Nature Clubs) in seven Del Valle elementary schools, connecting house-restricted, underprivileged children and their families with nature. Camp Fire set a target of having 80 participating families experience fun outdoor recreational activities led by nature experts and club mentors. The families were to be trained in safety procedures and nature preservation, with each club completing an annual environmental stewardship project at the end of the program.

Camp Fire met its first-year goal of forming seven clubs with a total of 54 participating families and its second year goal of forming 10 clubs with a total of 80 participating families. The organization succeeded in carrying out its program objectives of each club completing 10 outings in 10 months during the cycle year; in the first year, all seven clubs completed their 10 outings for a total of 70 outings, while the 10 clubs in the second year exceeded their outing goal of 100 outings by 11 for a total of 111 outings. The clubs also participated in various nature activities over the course of the year, including, but not limited to, gardening workshops, rowing lessons, guided hikes, and service activities. Moreover, Camp Fire surpassed its goal of having 50 families trained in the Leave No Trace ethics curriculum, with 79 families officially having been trained during the grant period.

Because of Impact Austin's grant, Camp Fire's reach into the community was significantly broadened. Camp Fire was able to engage 134 families through Camp Fire Family Nature Clubs and an additional 90 families through outreach events at the schools and service day events such as Earth Day, resulting in 224 total families and 439 children impacted. Over the course of the Impact Austin grant cycle, the organization reports a total of 10,164 hours spent outdoors.

**A STORY FROM CAMP FIRE:** *Camp Fire's hands-on activities spark kids' interest and curiosity, prompting them to ask questions to discover more about the natural world. One example of an activity the kids completed was a service project to help heal the lands of Bastrop County that were devastated by the 2011 fires. Camp Fire Family Nature club families made hundreds of seed balls to help re-establish native grasses, plants, and flowers in areas affected by fire. In this activity, they learned why native grasses and plants are important to provide food and habitat for wildlife, while preventing soil erosion. With hands deep in mud and seeds, one youngster asked the simple question: "Why make seed balls instead of just throwing the seeds?" When children are interested enough to ask, ponder, and seek explanations, the seeds are sown to stretch their thinking and become lifelong learners.*

## AVANCE AUSTIN



### Parent Child Education Program

Focus Area.....**Education**

Grant Amount.....**\$103,600**

Grant Year.....**2012**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013**

Website.....**[www.austin.avance.org](http://www.austin.avance.org)**

AVANCE serves low-income, predominately Spanish-speaking, families by enhancing parenting skills, promoting children's long-term educational success, and breaking the family's trans-generational cycle of poverty. The nationally recognized, intensive nine-month Parent-Child Education Program offers weekly four-hour classes for Spanish-speaking parents of children from birth to three years. Bi-lingual and culturally competent professionals provide information on topics such as parenting, children's cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development, health and nutrition, accessing community resources, and age appropriate lessons for children. Their holistic approach includes food, transportation, and home visits to parents who are socially isolated. AVANCE has provided service to the community for 15 years to break the cycle of poverty and deliver children in poverty to school ready for success.

With Impact Austin's grant, the program sought to expand to Del Valle and impact 50 individuals (20 parents and 30 children) in its pilot year. AVANCE specified four primary goals for the program: raising the level of understanding of child development and parenting skills; improving interactive reading; encouraging parents to pursue their own education; and making certain that participants are satisfied with the program. Despite the unanticipated challenges arising from the decentralized structure of the Del Valle community, the organization exceeded the first three goals and only missed the fourth goal by 1%.

AVANCE successfully served 106 parents and children in the Del Valle community. Ninety-one percent of participants reported having increased knowledge of child development and parenting skills, surpassing the initial success rate of 80%; 91% were reading to their child at least three times per week by the end of the program, exceeding the goal of 75%; 100% of participants planned to pursue additional education, exceeding the initial goal of 80%; and 99% of participants reported feeling satisfied with the program with 61% of participants returning for more services, up from 53% in FY2011-2012, reinforcing the value and satisfaction with the program. As a note, these results were based on pre and post testing carried out on all Parent-Child Education program graduates (including those in Dove Springs, St. John's and Manor in addition to Del Valle).

**A STORY FROM AVANCE:** *Maria\* attended our Parent-Child Education Program with her two youngest children at Creedmoor Elementary, Del Valle ISD. She was born in Guerrero, Mexico, and moved to the U.S. nine years ago with her first husband, Juan\*, whom she married when she was 15, and their two sons, ages 10 and 6. She later made the decision to separate due to Juan's history of violence and verbal abuse. As she continued to fight for her children and go to work, her family assisted her economically.*

*Maria was a single mother for three years before she began living with her current partner, with whom she now has two children—Ed\*, 2.5 years old, and Isaac\*, 10 months old. She enrolled in the Parent-Child Education Program with both. At the time, Maria was very concerned about her family's welfare. Despite the fact that she was separated from Juan, he kept pitting the children against her current husband and was not financially supportive.*

*After finding her in this situation, we helped Maria contact numerous community resources such as legal aid and Safeplace to assist in applying for child support. We also helped her utilize the information gained during our community resources speaker series to apply for food stamps. Now she and her first two children are all benefiting from family therapy.*

*When we screened Ed and Isaac with the ASQ and Denver II test, we realized that Ed had a communication problem. During home visits, we taught Maria how to interact differently and conduct activities to help improve this. Maria's consistency in implementing the new activities resulted in Ed becoming one of the best speaking children in the class after only a couple of months. In addition, Ed's aggressive behavior has also decreased due to her changes in approach to discipline and the one-on-one time.*

*Today, Maria is enjoying witnessing the changes in her son, Ed, and also working on educating herself by using the resources we provide at AVANCE. She has enrolled in the adult basic education program at Any Baby Can and advanced level ES classes. She plans to attend a GED course in the future.*

*\* Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF THE AUSTIN AREA



**BE PROUD: Transforming Health Education for Austin's Teens**  
Focus Area.....**Health & Wellness**  
Grant Amount.....**\$103,600**  
Grant Year.....**2012**  
Grant Period.....**7/1/2012 – 8/30/2013**  
Website.....**www.bgcaustin.org**

Since 1967, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area (BGCAA) has provided children from six to 18 a safe place to connect with adult role models. Here, children with limited economic circumstances explore individual abilities, and develop relationships with positive role models. The staff supports a positive peer environment where children learn skills to help them to grow into healthy, responsible, caring adults. Ninety percent of children who participate graduate high school with a better chance at a successful life. Impact Austin's grant supported the Be Proud program, which is aimed at addressing the high rate of teen pregnancy through education and empowerment.

BGCAA's goal for this program period was to reach 2,000 economically disadvantaged youth who are at high risk for premature sexual activity, through participation in a voluntary, age-appropriate, evidence-based prevention program held weekly at BGCAA's clubs. While this program initially sought to serve 6th through 12th graders, this coverage was extended to include 4th and 5th graders, given the rise in younger students participating in sexual activity. BGCAA surpassed this goal of reaching 2,000 students, with more than 2,300 youth participating in classes during 2012-2013. Feedback from this program was very positive, with students, families and staff taking an active role in promoting the program's message to reduce the number of teen pregnancies. Youth who attended the program are now more empowered to make responsible choices, thanks to the increased knowledge in all areas for preventing teen pregnancies. Moreover, the impact of this grant will continue to be felt in the years ahead, given the grant's training component, which allows the knowledge to be passed on within the organization. Additionally, as a result of this funding BGCAA was able to develop family workshops, which have enabled the organization to communicate its message at all levels.

**A NOTE FROM BGCAA:** *Many of our success stories will be in the years to come for the young people who have been affected by this program. The real success will be when they have broken the cycle of teen pregnancy so many of them live with. The success will be in the next few years when Austin has a lower teen pregnancy rate. At the end of this project year our post-test saw an increase of young girls making positive decisions. Females had a 95% increase of understanding the impact of having a child before graduating high school. Ninety-nine percent of females said they would not engage in a sexual relationship without discussing it with an adult.*

## MANOS DE CRISTO



### Grow the Clinic

Focus Area.....**Health & Wellness**  
Grant Amount.....**\$101,000**  
Grant Year.....**2013**  
Grant Period.....**6/14/2013 – 12/31/2013**  
Website.....**[www.manosdecristo.org](http://www.manosdecristo.org)**

Manos de Cristo empowers low-income individuals with a loving hand of assistance and welcomes all regardless of age, gender, race, or religious preference. Manos promotes dignity and self-reliance by providing essential oral care, furthering educational development, and meeting basic needs with food and clothing.

In operation for 25 years, the Manos de Cristo clinic is currently the only low-fee, comprehensive, non-profit dental service provider in Austin providing high-quality care to low-income adults and children in need. With the relocation of Manos de Cristo's dental clinic from East Austin to a larger and newly renovated North Central location, the organization sought funds from Impact Austin for its "Grow the Clinic" project. This project's scope covered the costs of purchasing three new and complete dental chair systems that would allow the clinic to grow from serving 4,200 to serving 11,000 patients per year.

The new dental clinic opened on November 21, 2013, with Manos de Cristo reporting that it was able to serve twice as many patients in January and February of 2014 as in the previous year's first two months. Thanks to Impact Austin's funding, the organization has been able to increase its potential capacity to serve 3,000 low-income, working poor patients each year. Additionally, the newer, more aesthetically pleasing environment aligns with the organization's efforts to provide services with dignity. During the course of the project, Manos de Cristo received free consultative services from Ana Salas-Porras, who has a specialty in improving operational efficiencies of similar dental practices. Additionally, St. David's Foundation has offered not only funding, but also guidance to Manos de Cristo as an experienced provider of dental services. Lastly, Manos de Cristo and People's Community Clinic (PCC) signed a memorandum of understanding for PCC to provide referrals beginning in the fall of 2014.

**A STORY FROM MANOS DE CRISTO:** *Six months ago, a 40 year-old female came to the Manos de Cristo Dental Center suffering with Diabetes (DM). She was considered low income and had no insurance. Due to complications of DM, the patient had recurring tooth infections. Her physician referred her to Manos because he knew Manos had reduced prices for the working poor. The patient began seeing Manos at Cesar Chavez. A comprehensive exam was completed. The exam showed that she needed a deep teeth cleaning (deep cleaning is called Scaling and Root Planing) and regular cleaning maintenance exams thereafter because of periodontal disease. The disease needed to be addressed and was causing the infection. Now the patient is able to get regular hygiene appointments every three months to continue to thwart the re-occurrence of infection. She would not be able to pay for the same type of cleaning at private dentists' offices, so she is very appreciative to come to Manos for the reduced fees. She stated that Manos' staff is much nicer than other dentists she had been to and was happy to make the transition from the old clinic to the new center.*

## EASTER SEALS CENTRAL TEXAS



### Sliding Fee Scale Program

Grant Amount.....**\$5,900**

Grant Year.....**2013**

Website.....**[www.easterseals.com/centraltx](http://www.easterseals.com/centraltx)**

Easter Seals promotes independence and creates opportunities for people with disabilities to pursue their hopes and dreams.

Easter Seals Central Texas sought funds from Girls Giving Grants for the Sliding Fee Scale Program for uninsured and underinsured children with disabilities. This program promotes access to rehabilitation therapies (speech, occupational, physical) and audiology services in the Austin area. Easter Seals is the only provider of a sliding fee scale for these services for children. Through the funding of this program, Girls Giving Grants helped many children with disabilities gain access to these critical services.

**A NOTE FROM EASTER SEALS CENTRAL TEXAS:** *Several children who were unable to qualify for Medicaid or Children's Medicaid (CHIP) due to a variety of issues have been receiving services and were able to continue due to G3 funding. Without this funding they would have to stop services and they run the high risk of not continuing their progress and even a decline in functioning. Another child served is utilizing G3 funds to help with high insurance copay that his family could not afford otherwise. This child was able to receive a hearing aid and can now hear and understand everything his family, teachers and friends say!*