



GRANT OUTCOMES REPORT

Annual Meeting: June 6, 2016

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COLORADO RIVER ALLIANCE

www.coloradoriver.org

Texas Colorado River Mobile Learning Experience

Focus Area.....**Environment**

Grant Amount.....**\$101,000**

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

Grant Period.....**7/1/2013 – 6/4/2015**

The Colorado River Alliance (CRA) supports natural science education and outdoor recreation programs that encourage the stewardship, awareness and protection of the Colorado River, particularly to at-risk youth. CRA is the only nonprofit in Texas dedicated solely to the protection and conservation of the Texas Colorado River.

Impact Austin awarded CRA a grant to assist in the creation of the Texas Colorado River Mobile Learning Experience (aka The Mobile River). This cutting-edge mobile learning center brings a high-quality STEM

experience to students of Central Texas schools, inspiring the next generation of Texas water stewards. The program provided a unique field trip experience by bringing important water conservation information to thousands of students annually. As one of several funding partners, Impact Austin's grant went directly to the purchase of a gooseneck trailer; the trailer design; fabrication, installation and upkeep of exhibits; development of the educational curriculum; and purchase of supplies for student activities.

The Impact Austin grant award had a significant impact on CRA because it provided capital funding to construct the Mobile River, which significantly increased the number of youth served. Overall project goals were consistently met, notably in relation to the enhancement of education about the Texas Colorado River watershed's key features as well as critical issues regarding water use, water conservation and pollution in Central Texas. This experience has encouraged students to take active roles in promoting a clean watershed and helping to keep the Texas Colorado River flowing clearly for future generations.

Prior to the grant awards, CRA's only educational effort was the Redbud Education Program near the Tom Miller Dam in Austin offered to 3rd through 5th grade students. The Mobile River classroom was designed

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.

As we come together to select our 2016 grant recipients, it is exciting to learn how past awardees have transformed the lives of Central Texans with Impact Austin's support. And our members 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.

It is through the successful program 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 Executive Director

to reinforce and build upon the initial experience by reaching students again at the 7th grade level. Additionally, the Redbud Program was limited in its capacity and scope due to larger class sizes and tighter school budgets. The Mobile River classroom's ability to travel directly to the students easily accommodated more students.

After nearly two years of planning and development, the Mobile River rolled out in the spring of 2015 and before the school year ended, roughly 600 students visited. These youth got to experience interactive exhibits and games teaching them about water conservation in the 42-foot trailer alongside 3D models of streams, floodplains and ecoregions. Both teachers and students said they had never experienced anything like it before. During a full school year, CRA expects to reach at least 10,000 local 7th graders, quadrupling its reach thanks to the Impact Austin grant.



GIRLS EMPOWERMENT NETWORK (GENAUSTIN)

www.genaustin.org

The 180 Program

Focus Area.....**Family**
 Grant Amount...**\$101,000**
 Grant Year.....**2013**
 Grant Period.....**7/1/2013 – 6/30/2015**

GENaustin works with girls to support and guide them to make wise decisions as they navigate the unique pressures of girlhood. The Impact Austin grant was specifically earmarked for the 180 Program which provides court-ordered services for girls involved with or at high risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system.

The 180 Program was operating in Travis County and the Impact Austin funding allowed GENaustin to expand there and in Hays and Williamson counties. In the first year, GENaustin exceeded its goal of serving 400 girls but year two recruiting was slowed down by new legislation that stopped schools from ticketing students for relatively minor behavioral issues.

This minimized court referrals for the 180 Program and GENaustin responded by seeking new referral sources.

The number of girls served also was minimized in year two due to the many requests GENaustin received to expand groups from their standard 8–12 week duration to 20 weeks. While this meant less girls were served, it did allow GENaustin to work more deeply with the girls enrolled.

GENaustin is thrilled that the Impact Austin grant allowed them to establish strong programs and relationships in new regions. Directly because of Impact Austin, it served 173 girls that otherwise would not have been helped, supported two additional part-time staff people to deliver 180 services and provided approximately 2,076 more hours of direct service with girls in need. The results are extraordinary.

GENaustin's goal was that 70 percent of participants surveyed would report increased proficiency in at least one of the following: self-efficacy, pro-social bonding and/or coping skills. Program participants reported, among other outcomes, that:

- 73% felt like they have control over their lives
- 68% learned ways to handle hard situations
- 74% felt the adult leaders of the group care about them

- 69% learned to pick dating relationships with people who will treat them with respect
- 71% learned to deal with their feelings without hurting themselves or others.

GENaustin also aggressively established new funding sources in Williamson and Hays counties that will allow the program to continue to flourish. The organization has leveraged \$282,800 in funding from new sources as a direct result of its work made possible by Impact Austin.

The program's success was summed up by one counselor who saw the impact on a school in Georgetown that was newly served via the Impact Austin grant. Of a very small graduating class, nine of the girls had been enrolled in the 180 Program, including three who had become zealous supporters of GENaustin within the school. All of the graduates had moved to the alternative program with the goal of graduating in spite of the obstacles to education that they encountered. Watching them receive their diplomas, shout and dance and celebrate, was nothing short of transformative — for the counselor and the students.



LIFEWORKS

www.lifeworksaustin.org

Workforce Development Program

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

Grant Amount....**\$101,000**

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

Grant Period.....**7/1/2013 – 6/30/2015**

LifeWorks' Workforce Development Program targets youth who have been emancipated out of foster care and are at risk for joblessness, homelessness and/or incarceration. The goal of the initiative funded by Impact Austin was to break the cycle of youth moving from foster care to adult social services by assisting youth ages 16-24 in becoming self-sufficient with the ability to seek and maintain employment, sustain housing and cope with the challenges of daily adult life in a responsible manner.

With the grant funds, LifeWorks hoped to enroll 85 foster and high-risk youth per year in a newly expanded Workforce Development Program. Additionally, the program intended to host three long-term training sessions a year for these youth. The organization also set

goals for the percentage of clients who would show improvements in socio-emotional development, preparedness to enter the workforce, self-sufficiency and life skills.

LifeWorks significantly exceeded their goal of the number of participants in the program with over 222 foster and high-risk youth enrolling during the grant period. The program was one session short of completing its goal for number of sessions provided over two years as it experienced difficulty with getting youth to commit to long-term training sessions. As a result, LifeWorks transitioned to more individualized job placement services.

The grant from Impact Austin developed LifeWorks' understanding of how to assist foster youth with finding employment and has made employment services a strategic goal for the Board of Governors and the agency as a whole. The target population has benefited from the program because they were given life and employment skills that they can use throughout their lifetime. In addition, several youth were able to find positions and keep them for longer periods than they ever had in the past; and some youth advanced in their positions, allowing them to make higher wages.

The impact of the grant is exemplified by a youth named Jason who had become homeless shortly after leaving foster care. Jason was referred to the Workforce Development Program in the spring of 2015. Although he was sleeping

in the woods and often getting his belongings stolen, Jason was determined to be successful. He began working with a LifeWorks employment counselor who assisted Jason in creating a new resume, focusing his job search and following up with a number of places where he had applied. Jason soon found a job with a company that prepares and delivers food around Austin. His employment specialist continued to work with him to find stable housing. After applying for countless apartments and housing programs, Jason was finally accepted into the LifeWorks Supportive Housing Program. He was able to move into a new apartment and now has an affordable place to call home. The instability and stress he experienced in the past have been replaced with confidence for his future.



ZACH THEATRE

www.zachtheatre.org

Arts Across the Curriculum

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

Grant Amount....**\$101,000**

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

Grant Period.....**8/1/2013 – 7/31/2015**

The ZACH Theatre is the longest continuously running theatre company in the state of Texas, and one of the ten oldest in the country. Founded in 1932, the ZACH is a nonprofit organization that annually serves over 100,000 central Texans – including 50,000 children and youth who participate in educational programs.

Impact Austin's grant funded the continuation and expansion of the ZACH "Arts Across the Curriculum" (AAC) program. The AAC was designed to supplement theatre education while teaching core curriculum in low-income AISD schools, engaging students in classroom educational objectives and giving teachers tools to extend creative learning into future lesson plans. The program aimed to provide drama-based instruction of core science, social studies and language arts for 1,500 students in 60 classrooms at 16 schools.

The primary challenge in implementing the program was the competition for teacher time and mindshare. During the first semester of the program, educators' priorities and scheduling requirements became better understood, and ZACH modified the program to more effectively meet teacher needs. While the planned 60 classrooms were engaged, the student count per classroom was less than anticipated for a total of 1,112 students. Twelve of the 16 originally targeted Title One elementary schools were served. The outcomes in classrooms served were very positive. All participating

teachers reported that students receiving instruction improved in their understanding of the targeted curriculum, vocabulary retention and understanding and visualizing abstract concepts. Additionally, teachers extended their professional skills while incorporating arts-based strategies in their curriculum.

As schools witnessed the benefit of the program, ZACH was requested to return and extend the program, initially focused in one grade level, to additional grade levels. This success creates continuity and improved long-term outcomes for low-income students progressing through their elementary years as they benefit from arts-based learning in multiple grades.

One of the most important outcomes of the Impact Austin grant was the ability to fund an external, in-depth evaluation to validate that the program improves academic success. Preliminary data results confirm this and ZACH expects to be able to use the final results to secure additional program funding. The evaluation also revealed that the program was particularly helpful for the lowest performing students.

All of the schools served by the Arts Across the Curriculum program requested that ZACH return in the 2015-2016 school year. A teacher at Simms Elementary, underscored the many benefits of the program this way:

“AAC has given me an invaluable tool to teach abstract vocabulary in concrete ways which the kids can

remember. It has given my students the confidence to take on challenging words, think about them in different ways and have fun learning. Thanks to AAC, the atmosphere in our room has shifted a little farther from ‘sit and get’ toward ‘know and show.’”

2014 GRANT AWARDS



ANN RICHARDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION

www.annrichardsschool.org

Ann Richards School (ARS)

MakerSpace

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

Grant Amount....**\$100,000**

Grant Year.....**2014**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015**

Ann Richards School (ARS) is an all-girls public school serving grades 6 through 12 with 75 percent of the students from Title One (low income feeder schools) and 25 percent of the students from other Austin Independent School District (AISD) schools.

The school’s MakerSpace project funded by the Impact Austin grant was a hands-on, project-based center, a collaborative effort of the Ann Richards Foundation, AISD and the Austin high tech industry. The ARS MakerSpace provided a tinkering space to transform projects from concept to creation and allowed students to deepen their understanding of STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology skills concepts).

ARS and the ARS Foundation set a goal to renovate an existing classroom and shop space to serve as the MakerSpace. They wanted to add equipment such as robotics kits, 3D printers, tools and design software to the space and provide access to all 780 ARS students to the space before, during and after school. ARS also hoped to have all 8th grade students complete at least one course in the MakerSpace.

The school achieved its goals by completing the renovation in November 2014, and having all students use the space. All 8th graders completed a course in the MakerSpace. In addition, ARS high school students completed at least three hours of STEM classroom projects in the space, a Tinkering Consultant provided professional development for 100 percent of the faculty, and ARS hosted eight workshop weekends in the MakerSpace for friends and family. Impact Austin’s grant for the MakerSpace transformed ARS’

campus and evolved its project-based curriculum, allowing students to engage hands-on in the scientific process. The space has inspired the larger education community as ARS welcomed other schools and programs around the country to learn about and replicate the concept. ARS principals were selected out of 2,000 applicants to give their presentation “Making Change, Empowering Girls through Making” in front of 200 attendees in the STEM and education fields at the 2015 SXSWedu conference.

The culmination of a year for the MakerSpace was the “Make O Rama” held by the school in April 2015. The event was organized by ARS 12th graders and featured maker projects from 6th-12th grade students. One student at the event noted, “Throughout the Make O Rama we shared the steps we took to make our product and possible improvements for the future. Ultimately the sharing process was one of our favorite times because we were able to share with our community the hard work we had been doing.”

SAMARITAN CENTER

www.samaritan-center.org

Integrated Health Care for a Healthier Community

Focus Area.....**Health & Wellness**

Grant Amount...**\$100,000**

Grant Year.....**2014**

Grant Period....**7/1/2014 – 12/31/2015**

The Samaritan Center's mission is to provide professional counseling, integrative medicine, and community education to prevent and treat abuse, teach healthy life skills and strengthen families. The Integrated Health Care for a Healthier Community Project funded by Impact Austin's grant was directed at transforming a fragmented health care system by providing telepsychiatric services and a case manager for low-income individuals in need in central Texas.

Over the 18 months of the project, the Samaritan Center encountered several challenges to providing services that ultimately allowed them to modify and streamline the program to provide services more cost effectively. To begin, the Samaritan Center found that they were not able to provide services to children under 16 years of age as they were unable to recruit a child psychiatrist to be part of the program. They also found that their population had high cancellation rates (roughly 30-40 percent) and required more time directly with a psychiatrist versus the nurse practitioner. In addition, the third party vendor contracted to provide psychiatric services stopped providing care in Texas.

While these challenges were daunting, Samaritan Center learned from the national Telemental Health Institute

that they were qualified to provide telepsychiatry care without a third-party vendor, thus reducing costs. They also adjusted their evaluation and scheduling procedures to more efficiently target individuals who would benefit from telepsychiatry services and align them with the appropriate healthcare providers.

The response from their clients has been overwhelmingly positive. Throughout the course of the grant, more than 80 individuals participated in nearly 400 teletherapy sessions and an additional 193 clients received care management assistance for basic needs and coordination of other provider services.

One of these patients was "Samantha," a single mom in her mid 30s. Samantha had grown up in a difficult family situation and became a victim of domestic violence and an alcoholic as an adult. Her children had been removed from her home when she was referred to the Samaritan Center from her sponsor at Alcoholics Anonymous. With a strong commitment to getting her life back together, Samantha started telepsychiatry services through SC, used its care management team to work with Child Protective Services, got rent assistance and is now seeing her children under supervised visits. She'll soon be starting career counseling through the Samaritan Center and hopes to provide a safe and secure home for her children in the future.

The Samaritan Center reports how grateful they are to Impact Austin for providing them the opportunity to start their program on a small scale and gain expertise that allows them to serve more central Texans.

2015 GIRLS GIVING GRANTS



AUSTIN DIAPER BANK

www.austindiapers.org

Diaper Donation Expansion Project Focus Area...**Girls Giving Grants (g3)**

Grant Amount.....**\$6,000**

Grant Year.....**2015**

Grant Period.....**6/1/2015 – 5/31/2016**

The Austin Diaper Bank, formed in 2013, provides diapers to babies, toddlers and senior citizens in need. When they applied to Girls Giving Grants (g3) for funding, the organization was undertaking a Diaper Donation Expansion Project and was working to broaden outreach, facility space and manpower to help more constituents.

The g3 grant was specifically focused on paying rent for a new 700 square foot facility space. During the course of the grant year, the Austin Diaper Bank expanded significantly and was able to move into a 1,700 square foot warehouse.

The Austin Diaper Bank reports that the g3 grant had a tremendous impact on the organization as it could not operate without warehouse space.

Not only did the g3 funds make that possible, but the grant gave the Austin Diaper Bank credibility with other funders which ultimately helped it expand its funding sources.

The Girls Giving Grants award helped raise the Diaper Bank's profile which was important for this fairly new nonprofit. The additional space allowed them to roughly double the number of children and seniors served to more than 3,000 total in 2015. The larger space also allowed it to take advantage of larger (and more) volunteer groups from across the community.

The Austin Diaper Bank now serves over 40 partner agencies from Georgetown to San Marcos. One of those groups told how important the Diaper Bank services are to women in need. A young woman, destitute, alone and pregnant, came to the partner agency by the help of a Good Samaritan. New to the area, she had recently fled a terrible situation in another country to be here. The client was due to deliver her baby any day and had absolutely nothing. She had an urgent need for housing, food and medical care. Not only did the group provide her with medical referrals and put her in touch with a maternity home and other safe emergency housing options, they also were able to give her a generous supply of newborn diapers that had just arrived from the Austin Diaper Bank. She was so grateful she cried. It was a small gesture, but for someone who has nothing, this supply of diapers made a world of difference.