

PRESS RELEASE

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IMPACT AUSTIN ANNOUNCES 2007 GRANT FINALISTS Five Austin-Area Nonprofits Vying to Receive Four \$104,000 Grants

Austin, TX, May 9, 2007 – Impact Austin, a local philanthropic group of women, announces the five finalists for its 2007 grant cycle. Impact Austin membership for 2007 is 416 women resulting in four \$104,000 grants. On Thursday, June 7th members will attend the annual meeting to determine the final four grant recipients. With these grants, the group will have put over \$1,000,000 to work in the community to benefit local projects since 2004.

“We are thrilled with the efforts of our grant evaluation committees and believe we have selected five outstanding finalists for our 416 members to vote on,” said Rebecca Powers, founder and president of Impact Austin. “All of these nonprofits are worthy of a \$104,000 grant and we look forward to seeing the ideas of the four recipients come to life to enrich our community.”

Each year Impact Austin considers proposals in five focus areas: culture, education, environment, family, and health and wellness. The finalists are chosen by focus area committees who evaluate proposals and conduct site visits before making their recommendations to the general membership.

The 2007 finalists and their proposed use of Impact Austin’s grant are:

- **Rude Mechanicals Theater Collective (Culture)** – Rude Mechanicals is an ensemble-based theatre company committed to collaboratively developing brave new works for the stage, presenting artists of national acclaim, training young theatre artists, providing Austin with a year-round multi-arts performance facility, and ensuring that every citizen in Austin has access to the arts regardless of economic status. Rude Mechanicals proposes to expand its Grrl Action program to a year-round arts education program for teenage girls designed to build self-esteem, individual strengths and an understanding of others through the creation of individualized arts projects completed alongside adult women mentors.
- **College Forward (Education)** – College Forward provides college preparatory and retention services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding. College Forward proposes to expand its comprehensive after-school program to serve 11th and 12th graders at Stony Point High School in Williamson County. Funds would help 80 low-income and first-generation students prepare to become the first in their families to earn Bachelor's degrees, impacting their lives and communities for generations to come.

- **Ecology Action (Environment)** – Ecology Action was founded thirty years ago as an all-volunteer group that sought to promote a variety of environmental issues, most notably recycling. Today their mission is to educate and empower people to create a healthier environment through waste prevention by operating two rural recycling drop-off centers and a recycling drop-off and processing center in downtown Austin. Ecology Action proposes to expand its recycling program by establishing two new satellite centers that will provide convenient locations for households and businesses to recycle, and divert more than 12 additional tons of materials from area landfills each year.
- **Adoption Coalition of Texas (Family)** – The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit collaboration of community-based adoption organizations and Child Protective Services, whose mission is to find families for children languishing in the foster care system. The Adoption Coalition proposes to expand recruitment and outreach efforts for programs to include The Heart Gallery of Central Texas and Forever Families, thereby increasing the number of older children, sibling groups and children with special needs adopted from foster care into permanent, stable families.
- **Indigent Care Collaboration (Health and Wellness)** – The Indigent Care Collaboration (ICC) is a nonprofit collaboration of 18 organizations in Central Texas working together to improve the efficiency and quality of health care services available for uninsured and underinsured individuals in the region. ICC proposes to establish “The Williamson County Uninsured Hotline,” centralized screening and referral system to simplify and improve access to primary healthcare for those without a medical home and to assist those eligible for public health insurance with the enrollment process.

Impact Austin hopes to grow its membership to over 500 women and is currently enrolling members for its 2008 grant year. Women interested in joining Impact Austin should call (512) 335-5540 or visit the Web site, www.impact-austin.org.

Impact Austin is a 501(c)(3) public charity made up of women seeking to transform lives in the Austin area through high-impact and lifelong giving. The only membership requirements are to be female and donate \$1,000 each year. Impact Austin combines the annual donations from members and gives large grants each year to local worthy causes selected by the members. Grant applications are accepted in each of the following focus areas: culture, environment, education, family, and health and wellness. Collectively, we are changing the face of philanthropy in Austin www.impact-austin.org.