

FuturoFund

THE MEMBERS Around 100 Austinites passionate about giving back to the area's Latino community — which makes for a surprisingly diverse group, says Priscilla Cortez, one of FuturoFund's co-founders. "We thought only Latinos would be interested, but we have African Americans and Asian American members as well."

THE DONATION \$500 a year, all of which goes toward grants.

THE RECIPIENTS Projects that directly serve Latinos in Austin.

THE BUZZ "A really strong focus for FuturoFund is ensuring Latino leadership, so they took time to meet our staff and our board, get to know how we worked, and see how we focused on leadership development within our own organization," says Cristina Tzintzún, director of Workers Defense Project. The group even ended up with a new board member and a passel of volunteers from FuturoFund ranks.

THE UNEXPECTED PERK A social life, with bimonthly get-togethers that let you connect with other Fund members. Voting on grant winners even takes place at the party-esque FuturoFiesta. "We like to create a sense of family," says Cortez.

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Girls Giving Grants

THE MEMBERS Between 50 and 60 Austin-area girls in 8th through 12th grades, plus a handful of adult Impact Austin members who mentor and supervise the teens.

THE DONATION \$100 — preferably money the girls earned themselves. "You can go spend it on a pair of jeans, but setting aside this amount of money makes such a huge difference in our community," says Oriana Wright, a Westlake senior who's currently president of Girls Giving Grants.

THE RECIPIENTS Programs or projects that help local youth.

THE BUZZ "It's the only group we know of where girls are making their own decisions," says Girls Giving Grants adult chair Dina Mavridis.

THE UNEXPECTED PERK Besides coming away with a rockin' college essay topic, girls start to see the need all around them. "I wasn't aware of so much that was going on essentially in my backyard," says Wright. "It's been an eye-opening experience." 

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