



GRANT OUTCOMES REPORT

Annual Meeting: June 5, 2017

IN THIS REPORT

2014 GRANT AWARDS

Anthropos Arts
Austin Youth River Watch
CASA of Travis County

2015 GRANT AWARDS

Council on At-Risk Youth
Drive a Senior
Texas Advocacy Project
Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center

2016 GIRLS GIVING GRANTS

Casa Marianella

Dear Members and Friends,

We are excited to share with you the wonderful results our Community Partners have achieved with their Impact Austin grants. The following report includes outcomes from 2014, 2015 and 2016 grant recipients.

Each year, we are elated and honored to be able to support the amazing work of worthy nonprofits in the greater Austin community. This assistance would not be possible without the ongoing generosity of each and every one of our members. For all you do, giving of your time and financial resources, we thank you! Your impact is felt by each of our Community Partners but extends much more broadly to the hundreds and thousands of individuals those organizations touch.

Together, Impact Austin members have given more than \$6 million to area nonprofits since our inception. We hope you enjoy reading about the outcomes of past grant recipients as well as hearing about the work being conducted by our current grant finalists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Apfelberg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Lisa Apfelberg
Acting Executive Director

2014 GRANT AWARDS



ANTHROPOS ARTS

www.anthroposarts.org

Focus Area.....**Culture**
Grant Amount...**\$100,000**
Grant Year.....**2014**
Grant Period.....
7/1/2014 – 7/31/2016

Anthropos Arts connects low-income youth with Austin’s best musicians for free music lessons, mentoring, workshops and performance opportunities in some of Austin’s best-known venues. The organization works with students in middle and high schools that have high rates of poverty. Anthropos Art’s musician instructors provide mentoring, teach life skills, serve as inspirational role models and assist the students in obtaining scholarships to college.

Impact Austin provided a \$100,000 grant to Anthropos Arts to fund its *Teaching More, Reaching More* project. The project was developed to expand and deepen the impact of the organization by increasing the number of students served and lessons provided per student. In addition, the project provided access for students to Grammy-winning artists and other top-level musicians and enabled students to perform in public venues.

Using the funds from Impact Austin, Anthropos Arts expanded its programming by 40 percent in two years. The organization increased the number of students served from 110 to 143 (representing 17 schools), just short of its goal of 150 students. At least 58 of these students continued their lessons another year. The funds enabled Anthropos to offer year-round lessons for the first time, a level of service that they intend to continue to provide. All but one of the 14 seniors of the class of 2015 attended college on a scholarship. Every one of the 16 seniors in the class of 2016 attended college on a scholarship.

Students in the program were exposed to a number of top notch artists through workshops and had multiple opportunities to perform in public. Acclaimed Indian vocalist Nirmalya Roy, the host of Indian Idol and one of the top male vocalists in India, did a workshop at Eastside Memorial High School. Every week, master percussionist Carmelo Torres ran workshops for all of the percussion students in Afro-Latin percussion. Students at KIPP were treated to a workshop with Fareed Haque, modern guitar virtuoso and master teacher.

Anthropos students were invited to create their own echolocation instruments and use them in a performance at the Congress Avenue bridge in conjunction with the Fusebox Festival. Finally, a portion of the funds was used to purchase in-house instruments that were too large for students to carry back and forth between school and home.

The expansion of the Anthropos Arts program provided a foundation for the organization to hire a new

fundraising Executive Director, allowing the current ED to serve as Artistic Director. The division of duties between these roles allows the ED to focus on development and strategic goals while the Artistic Director focuses on programming and performance development.



AUSTIN YOUTH RIVER WATCH

www.riverwatchers.org

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

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

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

Grant Period.....

7/1/2014-6/30/2016

Impact Austin's grant allowed Austin Youth River Watch to create a new program for at-risk high school students, the "River Watchers," that provides hands-on service learning projects focusing on

stream improvements. The goal was for student crews, consisting of approximately 10 youth, to have the opportunity to take on at least one week-long service learning project during the academic program year in addition to their weekly water quality monitoring. These projects were after school and included a weekend work day to involve community volunteers led by the students.

The Impact Austin grant allowed the River Watchers to perform 22 distinct service projects over the past two years with 19 different partners, complete 1,016 hours of student River Watch work, and engage volunteers in 491 hours of work while also continuing the organization's regular water quality monitoring program.

An unexpected benefit of the expanded program is that new community partnerships brought fee-for-service opportunities in addition to broader exposure for AYRW's work. In addition, partners at the City of Austin Watershed Protection

Division have discovered a new referral option in the AYRW for requests the City receives for projects on private property that are outside its jurisdiction.

Austin Youth River Watch also has been delighted to see the impact on its students. Nearly all students report via pre- and post-surveys of their River Watchers program significant improvement in their knowledge of water and environmental issues, and greater interest in these issues. One story of students that live near Slaughter Creek, Vitaly and Chris, really shows this growth. Vitaly and Chris reported to River Watch staff that a creek bank in their neighborhood had been "blown out" by recent flooding, and with every new rain storm the erosion was getting worse. Because of their River Watch experience, they not only recognized the problem, they also knew that they could do something about it!

AYRW coordinated with the City of Austin to confirm what type of involvement

could be pursued, while the students worked with their neighborhood association to gain attention and support for improving the site. Ultimately the Crockett River Watchers worked to stabilize the eroding channel by harvesting and planting beneficial, riparian grass species and constructing “check dams” in the channel to dissipate energy from flow events and rebuild the banks. Vitaly and Chris participated in the project along with representatives from their neighborhood association. One of the students, Vitaly, has now graduated from high school and is pursuing a degree in Wildlife Biology at Texas A&M as an outgrowth of his River Watch experience.



CASA OF TRAVIS COUNTY

www.casatrilvis.org

Focus Area.....**Family**
Grant Amount....**\$100,000**
Grant Year.....**2014**
Grant Period.....
7/1/2014–6/30/2016

The mission of CASA of Travis County is to advocate for abused and neglected children and to find them safe, permanent, loving homes. While that mission has not changed, the grant provided by Impact Austin to fund a program for Trauma Informed Care in the Foster Care System has completely changed the lens through which CASA staff and volunteers view their advocacy role.

The goal of CASA’s program funded by Impact Austin was to train 25-30 staff members

in the first year in using Truth-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), a therapeutic model that helps caregivers provide effective support and treatment for children impacted by complex trauma. This type of trauma results from multiple psychologically overlapping incidents such as chronic physical or sexual abuse. CASA also wanted three to six staff members to become in-house experts who could train others in TBRI and ensure that trauma care was a priority in the organization's child advocacy efforts.

Currently, seven CASA staff are trained as TBRI Educators, 34 staff members are trained in TBRI and, during year two, the organization trained roughly 160 volunteers, greatly surpassing their goal of training 60-80.

The TBRI training has greatly helped outcomes for the organization by providing:

- Stronger client services after reviewing approximately 300 children's cases for trauma and making recommendations for trauma-informed advocacy and services;
- Improved volunteer retention

as volunteers feel better able to help their young clients;

- Better outcomes as judges and the courts now frequently request that CASA make recommendations for specific TBRI-trained service providers; and
- Enhanced backgrounds for judicial decision making with children's timelines and backgrounds developed by CASA now being trauma informed and giving a fuller, more holistic perspective on the child.

For one little boy named Harold, the TBRI training of his CASA advocate had an especially profound impact on his life. Harold and his siblings were in foster care and Harold was receiving care from a therapist not trained in TBRI techniques that was not able to truly address the causes of his frequent tantrums and outbursts. By CASA switching Harold to a therapist skilled in TBRI techniques, he's been able to gain control of his behavior and open up to forming positive relationships. Following the legal termination of parental rights by the court, Harold and his siblings are

being adopted by a new family, an adoption that likely would not have happened if his therapist and CASA advocate had not been able to help his adoptive parents understand and use trauma-based care to help Harold transition to a new life.

2015 GRANT AWARDS



COUNCIL ON AT-RISK YOUTH (CARY)

www.cary4kids.org

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

Grant Amount....**\$80,000**

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

Grant Period.....

8/1/2015–6/30/2016

CARY currently operates at 13 schools in Austin, focusing on students with the highest

emotional and behavioral needs; students who would otherwise not receive services, but who need them greatly. Many of these students have experienced a variety of trauma that requires an increased focus on building self-esteem, empathy and collaboration skills.

Impact Austin’s grant of \$80,000 allowed CARY to serve an additional 100 middle school students in AISD, improving the future potential for these youth.

The Impact Austin grant allowed CARY to hire a full-time mental health professional to work with these 100 students, conducting PeaceRox groups and individual counseling at Paredes Middle School. The opportunity to serve these 100 students has had a far-reaching impact, not only in the lives of the youth, who are learning lifelong skills, but also within their families and the community in Austin.

The primary goals for the students include: a decrease in serious behavioral referral; a decrease in juvenile justice

involvement; and an increase in attendance and grades. Data on these topics are collected over the academic year by the CARY Youth Advisor who carefully monitors and tracks student performance in the areas of academics, attendance and behavior. The results were very positive. Of the 100 students served, 64 demonstrated an improvement in grades, 78 demonstrated a reduction in serious discipline referrals on campus, and 55 demonstrated an increase in school attendance.

CARY also collected surveys from parents, teachers, students and campus administration in May to gather anecdotal feedback and qualitative data in regards to the quality of services. Survey questions cover campus impact, student attitude, student behavior, attendance, grades and aggression. Of the surveys collected at Paredes, nearly all administrators scored at 100 percent satisfaction with one indicating a 90 percent satisfaction rate. Of the 34 parent surveys completed, CARY was given a 98 percent satisfaction rate, and received a 96 percent satisfaction rating

on the 89 student surveys completed.

Beyond the qualitative numbers, the CARY counselor at Paredes Middle School has formed a strong bond with many of the students she works with who now come to her to discuss difficult situations at home. In addition, several PeaceRox students who are involved in the afterschool learning services component of the program have decided to develop a children's book for kids at Dell Children's Hospital that they've entitled "Never Give Up." This student-led initiative is a good demonstration of the empathy training and perseverance participants learn through the CARY program that is exposing them to positive new experiences they would not otherwise have.



DRIVE A SENIOR

www.driveasenior.org

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

Grant Amount.....**\$80,000**

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

Grant Period.....

7/1/2015–6/30/2016

The van program funded by Impact Austin's grant wildly exceeded the hopes and expectations of Drive a Senior. The goal upon receiving the grant was to hire two part-time drivers to expand van services for seniors in additional regions around Austin. The organization also planned to train three new volunteers to help coordinate van schedules. Instead, Drive a Senior hired four new drivers and trained 15 new volunteers which has allowed the organization to greatly expand services in Elgin, Hutto and all suburbs of Austin. Executive Directors of

the regional offices and other drivers also are trained as back ups to ensure continuity of service for clients.

Throughout the program, each region developed schedules for the vans that allowed them to best serve the needs of their constituents. In Elgin, for instance, Drive a Senior has expanded from providing 20 rides weekly to more than 40 rides for their clients to choose from thus allowing more seniors to get out of their homes and connect with their communities.

The vans, which operate five days a week, dramatically helped seniors in each region as Drive a Senior was able to organize more planned trips for groups of seniors to destinations like the grocery store, library, senior center, etc. which freed up other volunteer drivers to take more seniors to needed one-on-one trips for medical appointments. Each region promoted the new van schedules via their newsletters, postcard mailings and schedules posted on local websites.

At the start of the program and the end of the year, each

van rider was given a survey to ascertain the impact of the program on their life. At the end of the year:

- 97 percent of riders reported a decrease in isolationism due to the weekly van rides; and
- 98 percent reported that they would not have left the house without the van rides.

One client, Virginia, has found a new sense of purpose and enjoyment as a volunteer van program coordinator. Prior to the program, Virginia scheduled an average of two doctor appointments each week because they were her only time to get out of the house and interact with others. A year into the van program and Virginia has not been to a doctor in several months and is greatly enjoying the interaction she gets with other van riders and through her volunteering. The Impact Austin grant also has inspired Drive a Senior to expand fundraising efforts to get more and newer vans to continue to expand their services.



TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT

www.texasadvocacyproject.org

Focus Area.....**Catalyst Grant**
Grant Amount..**\$50,000**
Grant Year.....**2015**
Grant Period....
7/1/2015–6/30/2016

Texas Advocacy Project (The Project) was the recipient of Impact Austin’s first Catalyst Grant. The grant funded a systems-wide technology upgrade, including new hardware and software for Project staff. With the technology upgrades, The Project was able to increase efficiency in providing free legal services and access to the justice system to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking throughout Texas.

The Project was able to close more than 400 additional cases in 2016 than 2015, a seven percent increase, thanks to this improved efficiency. Attorneys were no longer derailed by freezes in the online client database (CTS) and after the purchase of a new Sharp copier/printer/scanner, attorneys could print directly from CTS and scan complete documents instead of breaking them up into small batches. The purchase of new laptops with longer battery life and cloud-based services allowed attorneys to perform vital work while waiting between hearings at the courthouse.

The Project's client "Lisa" provides a good example of how critical this improved technology is for its work. Lisa was a client at the Women's Shelter of South Texas, a partner with which The Project works closely as staff are able to travel there to help their clients. Lisa's case had both pro se and direct representation components which meant The Project was able to successfully represent her solely because its attorneys could work remotely while staying up-to-date with

all of the other clients on their dockets.

Lisa was trying to shield herself and children from an abusive husband, who also sexually abused her daughter from a previous marriage. When Lisa learned of the assault, she called the police and then sought a divorce from her husband. The police referred her to the shelter who sent her to The Project.

Lisa was a candidate for the assisted pro se process because she worked closely with the shelter advocate. In working with both, The Project determined even though there was a criminal case against her soon-to-be ex-husband, her daughter might still be in danger. The Project stepped in and directly represented the child for a lifetime sexual assault protection order. The order was granted and the husband was convicted and sentenced to prison. Meanwhile the divorce was also granted. The last person that Lisa fought to protect was her other child, her seven-year-old son shared with her now incarcerated ex-husband. In order to feel like her family

was protected she wanted her ex-husband’s parental rights terminated, a goal The Project helped her achieve.

The Texas Advocacy Project is grateful to the members of Impact Austin for expanding their giving process to allow for strengthening a proven nonprofit organization. It applauds these efforts and hopes that Impact Austin will continue to make these types of investments in our nonprofit community.



WESTCAVE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER

www.westcave.org

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

Grant Amount...**\$80,000**

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

Grant Period.....

7/1/2015–12/31/2016

The Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center (Westcave)

provides educational programs for 6,000 school children annually and collaborates with other organizations through the Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin (CiNCA) to connect children and families to nature. The center sits on a 75-acre preserve in Southwest Travis County.

In order to provide children the unique experience of Westcave, schools and other organizations must find transportation to the center. Westcave recognized that in some cases transportation costs were a roadblock to underserved children being able to experience the preserve. To overcome this roadblock, Westcave applied to Impact Austin for grant funds to purchase a school bus that could be used to ferry students to and from their facility.

With funds from Impact Austin, Westcave purchased a used, 2001 school bus and had it maintained and refurbished to provide safe transportation for children. It was named the “Roadrunner Outdoor Adventure Bus” and wrapped in nature-themed art produced

by 11 Austin ISD student contest winners (the wrap was funded by 3M). In addition to purchasing and refurbishing the bus, Westcave set goals to hire a driver, procure insurance for the vehicle and the driver, and find a program manager to ensure that the bus is utilized to its full potential. The organization also planned to market the bus as a resource to the community.

Westcave met its goals with respect to finding an experienced bus driver and getting the bus and driver insured. The organization also appointed a Program Manager of the Roadrunner Outdoor Adventure Bus, with responsibility for maintaining travel logs and safety records and scheduling use of the bus for Westcave and its CiNCA partners. The bus has served as a traveling billboard for the program and is used at special events, such as the Austin Kite Festival, to increase awareness of the program. The organization had hoped that the bus would serve 3,000 children within the program's first year, however 2,000 children were served due to delays in the purchase of the vehicle.

Westcave expects the bus to meet the organization's long-term goal of serving 12,000 children in the first three years of the program.

As a participant in CiNCA, Westcave has shared the Roadrunner bus with other partner organizations. Many are budgeting for the bus as a resource and writing its cost into their own grants. Sharing the bus across CiNCA groups provides revenue for Westcave to reinvest in its own programs, allowing the bus to expand the impact of not only Westcave but also other like-minded organizations in central Texas.

2016 GIRLS GIVING GRANTS



CASA MARIANELLA www.casamarianella.org

Focus Area.....**g3**
Grant Amount...**\$7,000**
Grant Year.....**2016**
Grant Period.....
10/1/2016 – 4/03/2017

Casa Marianella is a volunteer-driven emergency homeless shelter in East Austin serving recently arrived immigrants and asylum seekers. In 2003, the organization expanded to offer Posada Esperanza, a facility specifically for immigrant women with children who were escaping domestic or cultural violence. In 2016, Girls Giving Grants (g3), Impact Austin's youth initiative, voted to award Posada Esperanza its \$7,000 grant to fund one additional national service program case manager

as well as providing funds towards direct client needs.

Casa Marianella's Posada Esperanza family shelter is staffed by a director and five young adult members of national service programs (four AmeriCorps and one Jesuit Volunteer Corps representative). It is these young adults who provide the case management services that help women-led immigrant families heal and develop the skills, resources and support they need to achieve self-sufficiency. Of the g3 grant, \$6,500 was put toward funding an Assistant Director position for an AmeriCorps volunteer and the additional \$500 supported direct client needs such as medical care, transportation and rent/ utility assistance.

Throughout the g3 grant period: 84 women and children left homelessness or unsafe living conditions for the safety of Posada Esperanza; 98 percent received the medical care and counseling they needed; 100 percent of residents who met eligibility criteria were offered a free evaluation by an attorney of their immigration legal issues; and 88 percent of the people who left Posada left for stable housing and with sufficient income.



P.O. BOX 28148 | AUSTIN, TX 78755 | (512) 335-5540 |
WWW.IMPACTAUSTIN.ORG