



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Dear Impact Austin Members and Friends:

Impact Austin's fiscal year 2016 was a great success with the organization giving \$426,000 to five worthy nonprofits in the Austin community. These grants included four program grants and a Catalyst Grant designed to strengthen the infrastructure of the nonprofit awardee.

In addition to advancing our philanthropic mission, Impact Austin also took steps to ensure this giving would continue in perpetuity by establishing the Rebecca Warren Powers Endowment for Impact Austin. The endowment provides a vehicle through which supporters wishing to make major gifts, including gifts through their wills, can be secure in knowing their donations will wisely and efficiently support the operations and grant-making mission of Impact Austin now and in the future.

Girls Giving Grants (g3), Impact Austin's youth initiative, continued to thrive, accepting its largest class to date. The 70 young philanthropists of g3 selected Casa Marianella as the recipient of its 2016 grant for \$7,000. Casa Marianella provides homes to immigrant women and their children who are escaping violent situations.

We greatly appreciate the ongoing support and efforts of our 400+ member volunteers who allow our organization to support the growing needs of the greater Austin community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Francia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Francia  
President, Board of Directors

## 2016 COMMITTEE CABINET

**Donna Benson-Chan,**  
*Executive Director*

**Valerie Kirk,** *Administration*

**Connie Lawyer,** *Grants Chair*

**Marisa Bushee,** *Marketing Chair*

**Val Colbourn,**  
*Philanthropy Education, Co-Chair*

**Karen Esparza,**  
*Philanthropy Education Co-Chair*

**Rebecca Hesson,** *Technology Chair*

**Ami Kane,** *Girls Giving Grants Chair*

## 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sharon Francia,** *President*

**Rebekah Bonde,**  
*Immediate Past President*

**Betsy Blair,** *Vice President*

**Sarah Elliott,** *Treasurer*

**Sara Pantin,** *Secretary*

**Lisa Apfelberg,** *Director*

**Valerie Kirk,** *Director*

**Melissa Gray,** *Director*

**Judy MacKenzie,** *Director*

**Connie Lawyer,** *Director*

**Jacquie Shillis,** *Director*

## OUR MISSION

*We're a progressive leader in women's philanthropy, bringing new resources to the community and making philanthropy accessible. Through high-impact grant making, we engage, develop and inspire women to effect positive change.*

## 2016 GRANT MAKING

In fiscal year 2016, Impact Austin members awarded \$426,000 to five area nonprofits. These grants included four programmatic awards of \$94,000 each and one Catalyst Grant of \$50,000. The program grants were given to TreeFolks, The Arc of the Capital Area, Partnerships for Children and Capital IDEA. LifeWorks was the recipient of Impact Austin's Catalyst Grant. Since its founding 13 years ago, Impact Austin has given more than \$5.5 million to worthy nonprofits in the greater Austin community.

## WHAT'S NEW: IMPACT AUSTIN ENDOWMENT

In 2016, the Board of Directors of Impact Austin announced the establishment of The Rebecca Warren Powers Endowment for Impact Austin. Impact Austin leadership gave long and careful consideration to establishing an endowment and was excited to take this step to ensure the permanence of our organization. The endowment also gives supporters a readily accessible vehicle through which to make a major gift, including a gift through their wills.



## GIRLS GIVING GRANTS

Girls Giving Grants (g3) is the youth initiative of Impact Austin. The group welcomes girls in 8-12 grades and helps these young philanthropists learn to be informed and conscientious donors. Members of g3 also have the opportunity to gain up to 30 hours of community service credit. In 2016, g3 selected Casa Marianella as its community partner. The \$7,000 g3 grant was earmarked to fund the Posada Esperanza family shelter that serves homeless immigrant women and children escaping violence in a cluster of renovated homes in a residential neighborhood in East Austin.



## MEMBER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Impact Austin organized numerous fun and informative events for members throughout the year, including:

- IMPACT-edu workshops educating members on giving strategies and research
- Grant Review Committee meetings to review grant applications
- Discovery Day, featuring topics ranging from changing job skills to domestic violence
- Community information sessions
- Orientation sessions for new members
- Impact Austin member celebration event
- Annual Meeting, our biggest event and the venue where final grant recipients were selected

## Environment | TreeFolks

TreeFolks will plant trees to restore the riparian forest on more than 1,000 residential properties in Hays County devastated by the 2015 floods. Many homeowners lost shelter and possessions and need assistance replanting their lands. Impact Austin funding will provide landowner consultation and planting of 385,000 trees on 800 acres along the Blanco River. The project will improve the ecosystem and provide healthy growth for future protection against flood damage.



## Culture | The Arc of the Capital Area

The Arc of the Capital Area (The Arc) each year empowers around 2,000 Central Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Arc helps families adapt to life with a child with a disability and assists maturing adults with disabilities in gaining skills needed to become independent. The Impact Austin grant will fund The Arc of the Arts, where 83 students with I/DD will participate in arts education and sell their finished work at art shows and at The Arc of the Arts studio.



## Family | Partnerships for Children

Partnerships for Children provides critical resources to abused and neglected children in Central Texas who are in the care of Child Protective Services. The Heart Gallery is both a traveling portrait exhibit and outreach opportunity for individuals to learn more about children in the foster care system and the adoption process. The Heart Gallery has a 60% success rate of getting harder to place children into permanent, loving homes. Before the establishment of Heart Galleries across the U.S. that number was less than 1 percent.



## Education | Capital IDEA

Capital IDEA lifts working adults out of poverty and into living wage careers through education. The grant will support the Rural Single Mothers Education Project, serving 100 rural mothers by paying for their community college tuition and all associated expenses in order to guide them from dead-end jobs or unemployment to employment in skilled careers.



## Catalyst Grant | LifeWorks

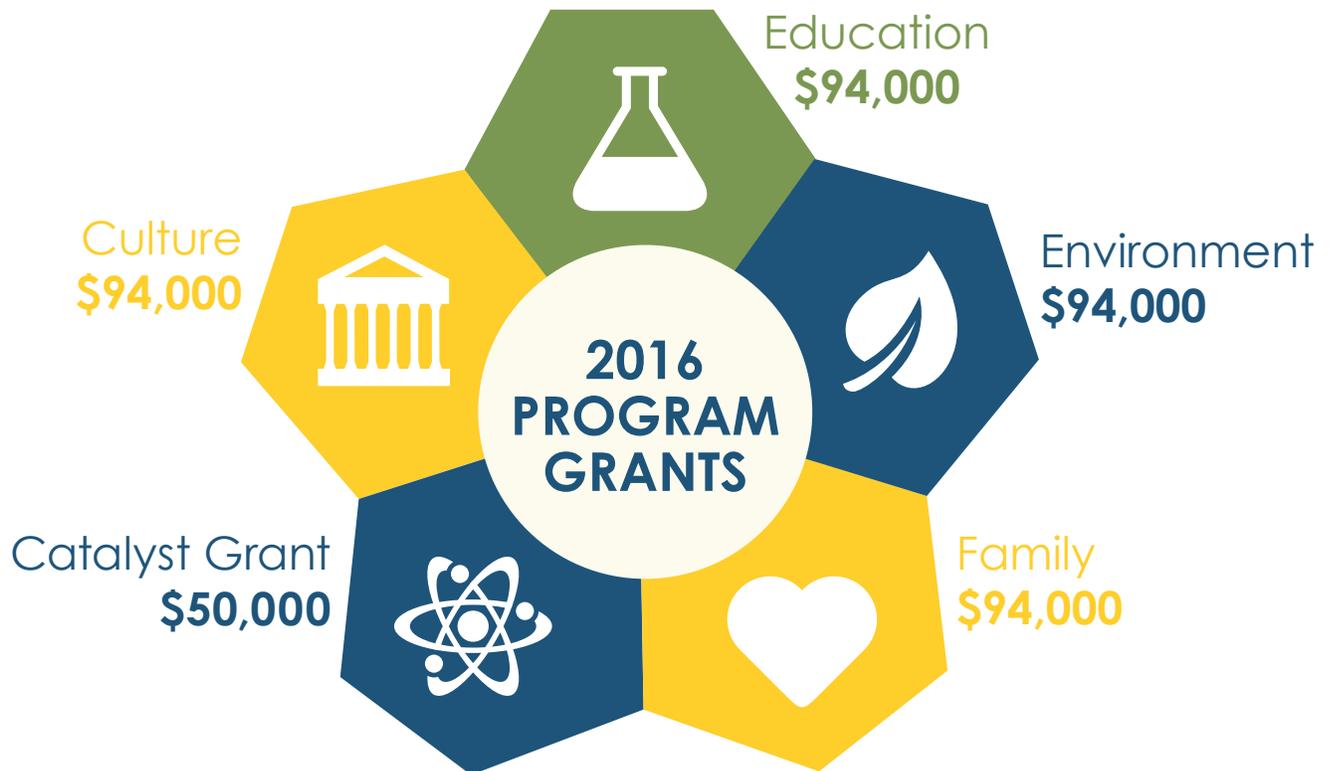
LifeWorks will use the Catalyst Grant to help solve a critical funding and sustainability issue for their mental health services. They are looking to transition or hybridize their current grants-based funding model to maximize Medicaid and insurance billing potential due to the recent changes in health insurance.





»» \$426,000 ««

Total Impact for 2016



The Community Partners below completed their grant programs as of May 2016. Their impact by the numbers is shown below:



## COLORADO RIVER ALLIANCE

- **600 students** visited the Mobile River classroom in the eight months following its premiere in spring 2015
- The Mobile River, a **42-foot classroom** in a trailer, allows youth to experience interactive exhibits and games teaching them about water conservation, floodplains and ecoregions
- During a full school year, the Mobile River classroom expects to **reach at least 10,000 7th graders**



## GIRLS EMPOWERMENT NETWORK (GEN)

- The Impact Austin grant allowed **GEN to provide 2,076 hours of direct service to 173 girls** that otherwise would not have had services
- 73% of girls involved in the program reported **feeling like they had better control of their lives**; 68% of girls in the program reported learning **ways to handle hard situations**; and 71% of girls in the program reported **learning to deal with their feelings** without hurting themselves or others



## LIFEWORKS

- The Impact Austin grant allowed LifeWork's Workforce Development Program to **serve 222 foster and high-risk youth**
- LifeWorks held **three long-term training sessions** for youth age 16-24
- The Workforce Development Program strives to break the cycle of youth moving from foster care to adult social services by helping youth to become self sufficient



## ZACH THEATRE

- The Impact Austin grant funded Arts Across the Curriculum (AAC) aimed at providing drama-based instruction of core science, social studies and language arts for **1,500 students in 16 schools**
- The program succeeded in serving 12 of the 16 targeted schools
- All participating schools **reported students improved** in their understanding of the targeted curriculum, vocabulary retention and understanding and visualizing abstract concepts



## ANN RICHARDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION

- The Impact Austin grant funded the MakerSpace project allowing students to transform projects from concept to creation, **improving their STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology) skills**
- The project **served all 8th grade students** in programs before, during and after school
- ARS educators were selected from 2,000 applicants to present the MakerSpace program to attendees of the **2015 SXSWedu conference**



## SAMARITAN CENTER

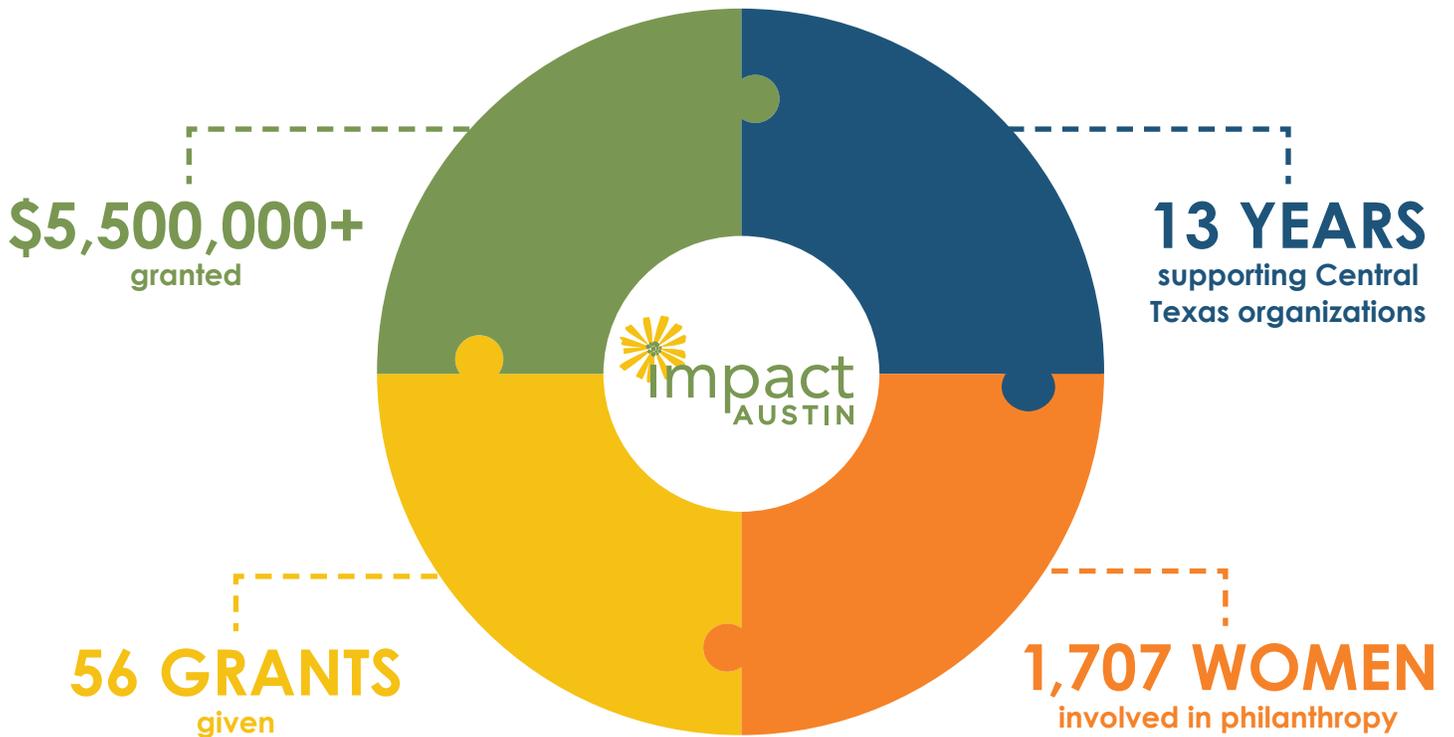
- Impact Austin's grant was directed at transforming a fragmented health care system by providing **telepsychiatric services for low-income individuals** in need
- The grant **served 80 individuals** via 400 teletherapy sessions
- The grant also provided case management services for an **additional 193 clients**



## AUSTIN DIAPER BANK (G3 RECIPIENT)

- The Impact Austin grant allowed the organization to expand to a **new 1,700 square foot facility**
- The larger space allowed Austin Diaper Bank to **double the number of children and seniors served** to more than 3,000
- It also allowed the organization to take advantage of more volunteers

# OUR CUMULATIVE IMPACT



## OUR VISION

*Our women are inspirational role models reaching their full giving potential for a better quality of life in our community. We will ensure our long-term sustainability by tapping into the talents of our members and building Impact Austin from the “inside out.”*



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