

# Grant Outcomes Report

**ANNUAL MEETING: JUNE 11, 2012**

**REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP ON GRANTS**

**COMPLETED TO DATE**

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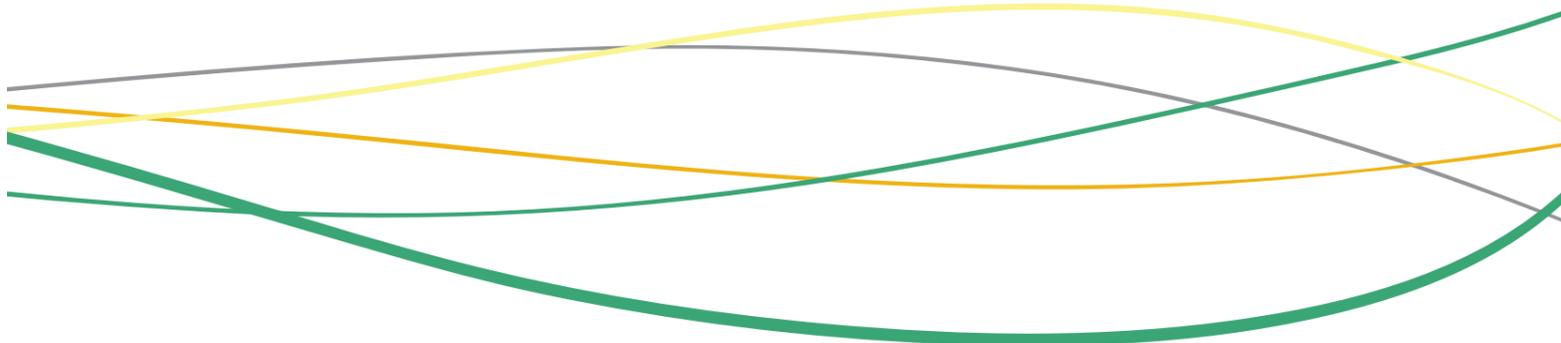
Barton Creek Trail Corps



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four hours Saturdays and for two hours after school twice a week. On Saturdays, the interns worked in the fields planting, weeding, and harvesting. Workers spent three additional hours on Saturdays in educational workshops focused on team-building and problem solving activities.

Urban Roots also educates and empowers youth to become active and informed advocates for sustainable agriculture, environmental sustainability, food access, and hunger relief through the urban farm. YouthLaunch conducted 40 workshops and educational activities, interns worked 58 hours on average per youth in the field, and interns led 6 volunteer days on the farm. In addition to the youth interns, 393 community volunteers worked on the farm. Fifty people visited the farm for educational field trips.

The Urban Roots interns distributed 4,436 pounds of healthy and affordable food to East Austin residents with limited access to healthy foods. Of the produce harvested: 1,842 pounds were donated to hunger relief groups, volunteers, and interns, and 2,594 pounds were sold at farmers' markets, through Community Supported Agriculture and through retailers. Participants interviewed and evaluated many hunger relief programs and donated to seven organizations: Meals on Wheels and More, Caritas, Angel House Soup Kitchen, Manos de Cristo, AIDS Services of Austin, Posada Esperanza, and Lola Queen Nubian, a restaurant that serves free meals to the homeless on Sundays in East Austin.

**AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION**

**Barton Creek Trail Corps**

Focus Area.....**Environment**  
Grant Amount.....**\$105,000**  
Grant Year.....**2010**  
Grant Period.....**1/1/2011 – 12/31/2011**  
Website.....**www.austinparks.org**

Austin Parks Foundation (APF) is committed to create and sustain beautiful and active parks throughout Austin by filling the gap between what needs to be done and what the Austin Parks department can afford. Since 1992,

Austin Parks Foundation has initiated and facilitated physical improvements, new programming, and greater community involvement for Austin's parks.

APF sought funds from Impact Austin for the Barton Creek Trail Corps, a project that addresses environmental issues through a restoration and improvement of the eight-mile main trail of the Barton Creek Greenbelt. APF contracted with American YouthWorks Environmental Corp to staff the project, which enabled underprivileged young adults to gain professional experience in the green job sector. The Barton Creek Trail Corps crew spent 6,393 hours on the project. APF collaborated with the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department, Hill Country Conservancy, and American YouthWorks. The total cost was \$210,588, and \$105,000 was funded by Impact Austin.

APF completed trail repair and improvements along eight-miles of the main trail that provide a sustainable but natural surface for walking, running, and biking. Two 500 feet areas remain rocky to facilitate drainage given the natural run-off patterns and flooding history in that part of the greenbelt. Progress in removing, treating, and managing large stands of invasive species has caused a dramatic increase in native grasses and plants. Interestingly, the hot, dry weather worked in their favor and allowed APF to expand work on flood damaged and eroded areas of the trail, thus increasing the projects from 46 to 61.



*Austin Parks Foundation.*

APF projected 800 community volunteers, but 1,841 volunteers donated more than 4,542 hours between September 2010 and December 2011. APF plans to continue with at least three major volunteer events per year. They have created an ongoing maintenance plan to be used by future trail corps crews, and they will continue to secure funds for ongoing maintenance to ensure the sustainability of this project.

## PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

### Healthy Babies Initiative

Focus Area.....**Health and Wellness**

Grant Amount.....**\$102,000**

Grant Year.....**2009**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2009 – 6/30/2011**

Website.....**www.austinpcc.org**

The mission of People's Community Clinic (PCC) is to improve the health of medically underserved and uninsured Central Texans by providing high quality, affordable healthcare.

PCC sought funds from Impact Austin for a Healthy Babies Initiative created to provide preventative care for babies. Saturday morning clinics held twice a month were led by a pediatrician and included well-child exams and immunizations. Additionally parents were taught what to expect from their growing baby as well as the importance



People's Community Clinic.

of reading to young children. Twenty-six Saturday group clinics provided 198 pediatric visits during the Impact Austin grant period. Parents not only learned about their baby and received in depth guidance from professionals, they also developed a support network among the other parents. While PCC has developed a new model of care with this program of group well-baby visits, they were challenged to find a nurse practitioner to staff Saturday mornings. Saturday sessions were delayed until April 2010 when a pediatrician was hired rather than a nurse practitioner as planned. The resulting increased expense coupled with the staff time and resources required to coordinate and conduct the group visits forced a decrease in the Saturday clinic to bi-monthly clinics rather than weekly as originally planned. While patient visits were 198 rather than the

projected 300, the Initiative had a higher than expected patient use rate.

The Healthy Babies Initiative additional goal was to increase the number of mothers who breastfeed their infants. During the Impact Austin grant period, PCC's Breastfeeding Counselor met with 657 women during pregnancy and post-delivery to educate them on the benefits and fundamentals of breastfeeding and to offer them one-on-one support during the first stages of lactation. Since the start of the lactation program, the percentage of exclusively breastfed babies at two weeks and six months of age has steadily increased.

## YOUTHLAUNCH

### Urban Roots

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

Grant Amount.....**\$102,000**

Grant Year.....**2009**

Grant Period.....**8/1/2009 – 7/1/2011**

Website.....**www.youthlaunch.org**

YouthLaunch provides empowering service experiences for young people by helping them develop skills, confidence, and resilience to grow into productive, community-minded individuals. YouthLaunch serves young people for a wide variety of community issues, including teen pregnancy, substance abuse and environmental sustainability.

YouthLaunch sought funds from Impact Austin for Urban Roots, a program that uses sustainable agriculture as means to effect lasting change for



YouthLaunch.

underserved East Austin youth aged 14-17. YouthLaunch recruited, interviewed, and hired 30 youth as Farm Interns to work on an urban organic farm. The interns attended a retreat orientation at Hornsby Bend, and worked around

## 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. This issue features six Community Partners, whose grant programs were completed as of May 2012.

Our support of these organizations reflects our commitment to transform lives in our Central Texas community. We 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.

We thank members from the Community Partners Committee and Marketing Committee for creating this report. It is through the successful execution of our Community Partners that we can continue to deepen our commitment to the Central Texas community in a meaningful way!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Fitzgerald  
Impact Austin Executive Director

## BALLET EAST DANCE COMPANY

### Eastside Dance Academy

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

Grant Amount.....**\$102,000**

Grant Year.....**2009**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2009 – 6/30/2011**

Website.....**www.balleteast.org**

Ballet East Dance Academy's vision is to provide a stage for the development of dancers and choreographers, repertoire expansion, and a reinvestment in the infrastructure of underserved communities through aggressive community programming and public and private partnerships.



Ballet East Dance Company.

Ballet East sought funds from Impact Austin for Eastside Dance Academy to create a structured and transformative dance program at Eastside Memorial High School. The goal was to attract students

to Eastside and keep students in school by offering them a positive group activity. The Dance Academy taught self-discipline, skills, and confidence to perform, and helped students consider their future. Dance professionals with important careers provided instruction in contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and theater dance, and students prepared their own performances. Additionally instruction in nutrition, fitness, and health, together with etiquette and behavior as audience members, performers, partners, and in groups were provided.

The total enrollment for the Eastside Dance Academy was 180 students per year. Eastside Dance Academy presented its end-of-semester productions to large audiences. At the fall 2010 production, Eastside is Rockin', students entertained some 300 family, friends, and members of the community. Almost 150 students danced, including five with special needs, who, according to Program Coordinator

Rodolfo Mendez, performed with infectious exuberance. As hoped, word-of-mouth awareness of Eastside Dance Academy spread during the grant period, and many students entered Eastside Memorial High School already knowing they wanted to participate in the program.

Eastside Dance Academy students, many of whom had never seen live professional performances, had attended performances in Austin and San Antonio where they saw their teachers and other dance professionals perform, and where they could practice their newly learned skills in audience behavior and etiquette.

## CAPITALIDEA

### Career Paths for Rural Families

Focus Area.....**Family**

Grant Amount.....**\$102,000**

Grant Year.....**2009**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2009 – 6/30/2011**

Website.....**www.capitalidea.org**

Capital IDEA lifts working families out of poverty by sponsoring educational services that lead to life-long financial independence. The program funds qualified participants' tuition, books and childcare, and works with them to find employment with good salaries, benefits, and opportunity for career growth.

Capital IDEA sought funds from Impact Austin for Career Paths for Rural Families, a project to transform the lives of families living in poverty in rural Travis, Williamson, Bastrop and Hays counties.

The project sponsored education and provided personal development assistance to the heads of household. Participants earn a degree or certification for a career that pays a true living wage and offers benefits.



Capital IDEA.

The project paid for participants' tuition, fees, books, childcare, transportation and emergency expenses, as well as provided case management to keep each participant motivated in their coursework and to assist them in times of personal need.

Capital IDEA enrolled 50 participants as planned in the project: 27 participants from Williamson County, 5 from Bastrop County, 6 from Hays County, and 12 from rural Travis County. They projected a retention rate of 90% and achieved a retention rate of 94%: three participants dropped from the project.

Due to tough economic conditions during the grant period, program graduates took longer to find employment and average wages were lower than in past years. At the same time, Capital IDEA has experienced a sharp increase in demand for these services. They are exploring new ways to assist participants, and have added support during the job search by conducting mock interviews and helping refine resumes. Capital IDEA has been fortunate with other funding sources during the Impact Austin grant period. Most notably, the State Legislature passed the Launchpad/ Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Fund, and Capital IDEA received a \$500,000 JET grant for the Austin area and an additional \$225,000 for the Rural Capital Area (the 9-county region surrounding Travis County).

## GENAUSTIN

### clubGEN / Girls Now!

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

Grant Amount.....**\$102,000**

Grant Year.....**2009**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2009 – 6/30/2011**

Website.....**www.genaustin.org**

GENaustin's mission is to support and guide girls to make wise choices as they navigate the pressures of girlhood. In order to meet this mission, GENaustin inspires and prepares girls to develop critical thinking skills and become self sufficient, trains and employs high school girls to teach middle school girls a research-based

curriculum, and provides education and awareness about the adolescent girls to teachers and parents.

GENaustin sought funds from Impact Austin to expand its Girls Now! in-school workshops and clubGEN after-school programs for girls in four middle schools serving economically disadvantaged students. At clubGEN, girls are surrounded with positive role models. They engage in weekly interactive, fun sessions that incorporate a research-based curriculum and are geared to equip middle school girls with the skills and awareness they need to navigate the pressures of the teen years. The topics of the Girls Now! workshop series included communication and bullying prevention; body image, health and wellness; and relationships. Through both programs, the girls learned about the negative effects of substance abuse, consequences of teen parenthood, and steps toward college and chosen careers. They developed decision-making skills and learned healthy ways to take care of their bodies.

While GENaustin anticipated serving 280 girls during the grant period, 304 attended: 101 in clubGEN and 203 in Girls Now!.

GENaustin Executive Director, Julia Cuba, met a mother of one of the participants who explained that her daughter, Aurelia, had been very depressed, had few friends, was doing poorly in her academics, and

ultimately did not feel good about herself. After Aurelia joined clubGEN, she began to talk about the girls in club and some of the issues they were facing together around bullying and peer pressure. Aurelia began taking care of herself, showing pride in herself at school, studying, and looking forward to her classes and extra-curricular activities. Ultimately, Aurelia began to do better in school and her depression lifted. Her mother believes clubGEN made a difference in Aurelia's life.



GENaustin.