



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.

Impact Austin Newsletter

January 2008

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Upcoming Events!!!

2/16 9:00am-1:00pm
Second annual Discovery Day ...
a forum for understanding
community issues. St. David's
Episcopal Church in downtown
Austin.

Mark your calendars:

6/10/08 Annual meeting at
Dell Jewish Community
Center

6/12/08 Check presentation
ceremony at City Hall

See website for more
details: [Impact Austin
website](#)



510 Members Strong!!!

We are so proud of reaching our five year goal to attain over 500 members so that we can give five grants this year, one to each of the five focus areas in the community -- Culture, Education, Environment, Family and Health & wellness. Congratulations to all and thank you for sharing Impact Austin with your friends and

inviting them to join!

Great Idea and then...

Grant Update

We've received 128 Letters of Inquiry to apply for our grants. Thirty-five (35) percent are from first time applicants!

Our Focus Area Committees (FACs) have begun their evaluation of these submissions, and by the end of the month will be selecting a short-list of organizations which will be asked to submit applications (Phase 2).

The survey says ...

Thanks to all of you who completed the 2007 on-line Member Survey. With 44% of our members sharing their thoughts, we feel confident that we have a representative sample of the opinions of our members.

Responses to the survey questions remain very consistent year over year. Our members continue to enjoy Impact Austin for the shared vision of pooling resources for high impact in the community, and for the opportunities Impact Austin provides for learning about the community and getting to know other

You might say Pat Budd had a dream. As Executive Director of the Children's Wellness Center in the Del Valle area, she wanted to train young people as clinic assistants and help them launch their healthcare careers. Armed with a \$108,000 grant courtesy of Impact Austin's 2006 grant awards, Budd recruited her first class. And, that's when the nightmare began.



The first day of class was the ice storm of 2007 and class was cancelled. Only later did Budd learn that ACC cancelled the whole course - as a result of missed days due to bad weather. Five weeks of lost time - and then the rescheduled class was moved to Georgetown which would not work for her students who often lack transportation. Classes finally began - and the nightmare continued. Some students flunked out, others dropped out, and some experienced extreme emergencies.

"I was shocked at the lack of sophistication and innocence of these new high school graduates," said Budd. "Even though I have worked with this community for a long time, I was naive about the problems they face every day. There were many things we could have done to help keep them in class, but the vast majority of students wouldn't tell anyone about their problems until they flunked out."

Budd was now faced with recruiting a whole new group of students for her program. She approached the high school and found that they had fired the occupational health administrator. She then got in touch with Capital IDEA, an educational services program that helps to bring families out of poverty and achieve financial independence. They had people eager to enter Budd's program.

The first graduate of the classroom program was Gisella, a 19-year-old mother with a 3-year-old child, who hopes to some day become a nurse practitioner. Today, 7 students are nearly two-thirds through the clinical program, and six more are in class and expected to graduate in January after which they will start their clinical training in February.

"It's looking a lot more positive now," said Budd. "For every student who has gone through this program, we are able to see three additional patients per shift we would not have been able to see before."

The CWC is a school-based health clinic created in partnership between the Del Valle Independent School District and the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, in affiliation with People's Community Clinic. The CWC is the only provider of pediatric health care services in the Del Valle area. The Children and families served by the clinic are predominately Hispanic, low-income, and medically underserved.

women with similar philanthropic interests. Our impact goes well beyond our grants - 37% of our respondents contributed financially to an organization that they heard about through their membership in Impact Austin!

Many members expressed a desire to learn more about our grant recipients, to have member socials as well as educational events, and to reach out to a more diverse population of women. Ninety one percent of our members agreed or strongly agreed with our final choice of grant recipients. Some were disappointed that the quality of one of the presentations may have cost the finalist a grant. Survey respondents also made suggestions for improving our grant applications, finalist reports, and the annual meeting format.

WE'VE HEARD YOU and appreciate your comments! We are working on many of the issues you've raised in your survey responses. This year we hosted a grant recipient forum where we heard updates from all ten of our grant recipients. We will continue to bring you highly qualified, inspiring speakers at educational events throughout the year. With each board member

Join us for Discovery Day!

Don't miss this exciting informational event for our members! We'll hear from community leaders and experts about Austin's changing demographics, current trends, and most pressing issues in our focus areas.

Please invite your friends!

Saturday, February 16th, 9 am - 1 pm
St. David's Episcopal Church, Crail Hall, 304 East 7th Street
Plenty of free parking is available in the church parking garage on Trinity Street between 7th & 8th.

If you haven't already received or responded to an invite, please RSVP directly to cmoreland@impact-austin.org.

Multicultural Diversity

Focus Group Findings

"We need more diversity in Impact Austin." Members have been telling us this since our first year. We brought 13 members together to brainstorm about this issue in two different sessions. In the end, we all agreed:

- Diverse frames of reference are good for Impact Austin and enrich the organization.
- It is critical that outreach for diversity not be a campaign but rather through the original way the organization started recruiting-by talking to friends.
- The ability to attract women of diverse backgrounds has to be authentic and from building relationships-not in an effort to fulfill a quota.

Already, we have invited Links, Inc. to attend Discovery Day in February. This local African American women's philanthropic organization focuses on the same issues we do-so we will learn together. Two of their members joined Impact Austin in December, and because they believe in our mission and vision, they are helping spread the word to their friends-just the way it should be! We look forward to building relationships this way with women of all cultures in central Texas.

heading up an advisory committee to support operations this year, there are many more opportunities for members to get involved in Impact Austin beyond the grant process. We are also committed to increasing the diversity of our membership (see article in right column).

For additional details, please feel free to contact Meeta Kothare at mkothare@impact-austin.org.

Tax Letters

To avoid the tax season crunch, Impact Austin's 2007 tax letters are being mailed out on a quarterly basis. If a donor made two separate contributions in 2007, it's possible that the donor may receive two separate Impact Austin tax letters. The expectation is to have all 2007 tax letters mailed by mid-February, 2008. If you have any questions please contact jkreager@impact.austin.org.

Impact Austin's award for Outstanding Philanthropic Organization of the Year for 2007 by the Austin Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals will be given at the Philanthropy Day luncheon on 1/29/08. Contact mkothare@impact-austin.org for more information.

Ask a friend to join
Impact Austin!

For more information, please contact Dawn Skinner at dskinner@impact-austin.org or visit our website at www.impact-austin.org

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