



Impact Austin Newsletter

September 2006

Dear Dina,

This newsletter includes the following articles:

*Message from the President *2006 Member Survey Results *Membership and Coffees *Impact Conference *Fresh, New Look for Website *Girls Giving Grants *Member Social *Grant Recipient Updates *Join a Focus Area Committee *Dear Daisy *110% Campaign Makes a Difference *Did You Know...*

Message from the President

Can you believe Impact Austin is starting its fourth year?! I look back on all that has happened in the last 36 months and all that each of you has contributed to our success. Collectively, we have put \$651,000 to work in the community making an impact in the areas of health and wellness, education and the environment. Over the last three years, we have carefully considered more than 350 proposed projects from hundreds of local nonprofits. Each year, approximately 100 Impact Austin members choose to participate in the grant review process by sitting on Focus Area Committees. Over 50 women have told me that they are now volunteering and/or giving money to nonprofits they've learned about through their involvement with Impact Austin. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your dedication to making an impact through your participation in our young organization!



This year, we expect to have 400+ members, so that by June, 2007, Impact Austin will have put over \$1,000,000 to work in Central Texas--a milestone we will celebrate enthusiastically!

Member Social at Cindy Moreland's House



Tuesday night, members and grant recipients socialized as we celebrated our previous grants and discussed the future of Impact Austin. Pictured here are: Karen Quinlan, Impact Austin member, Cindy Moreland, Impact Austin board member, and Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel, Development Director for Literacy Austin.

2006 Recipient: Literacy Austin

Impact Austin thrives because we have a fabulous group of hard-working board members that directs our efforts. I am honored to be associated with such a selfless group of women who work many hours and put what's best for our organization first in all decisions. Impact Austin is living proof that **'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts'!!**

Gratefully,
Rebecca Powers

2006 Member Survey Results

Thank you for completing the 2006 Online Member Survey this past June. We received great feedback and appreciate the 139 members who participated. With 44% of our members sharing their thoughts, we feel confident the survey results are representative of the opinions of our members. We value your opinions and ideas and use the survey results to make Impact Austin better!

In Summary:

Impact Austin members continue to receive three main benefits from joining:

- Learning about needs in the community and the nonprofits that work to meet those needs.
- Connecting with a community of women that are similarly focused on philanthropy.
- Pooling resources and giving back to the community in a meaningful way.

This year, the survey asked if women have volunteered in and/or given money to organizations they learned about through their participation in Impact Austin. **48 out of 135 (36%) respondents have done so—yea!! This means new women and new \$\$\$ are getting involved in our community!**

Eighty-five percent of the respondents said there wasn't anything they wish Impact Austin had done differently in 2006. Those who made improvement suggestions focused on member diversity and annual meeting format changes.

Ninety-five percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the quality of the five grant finalists and their proposed projects. Write-in comments focused on sustainability issues and questioning whether funding facility expansion/renovation as part of a project is what Impact Austin should be supporting.

On a scale from 1-5, with:

- 5=Strongly agree
- 4=Agree
- 3=Neither Agree or Disagree
- 2=Disagree



The building remodeling project officially started on July 10th. And, the outreach coordinator has been hired. The Literacy Austin team is looking forward to celebrating their newly remodeled space at a Grand Reopening within the next few months.

2006 Recipient: EmanciPET



The EmanciPET team has been busy! The Impact Austin Surgical Suite is under construction and they are purchasing all the equipment needed to stock the suite. The two Impact Austin vans have been purchased to transport pets. The Impact Austin logos will be added to the sides soon. An official launch of the new surgical suite will be held when the construction is completed.

2006 Recipient: Children's Wellness Center

The CWC staff has been actively preparing for the students to be interviewed and selected to start school in January. The staff is making sure they will be ready when the students walk in the door next semester. Activities have included the following:

- A focus group of teens representing potential candidates has been held to discuss teen perceptions of success metrics.
- A nursing assistant orientation and training manual is being written and reviewed.
- Plans are in place to discuss the project at the September Friends of the Children's Wellness Center meeting, and presented at the Del Valley Independent School District Board meeting.

2005 Recipient: Community Voice Mail

- 1=Strongly Disagree

The averages of the respondents' answers are shown after each question. The 2005 averages are also shown for comparison purposes.

1. I am happy with the three organizations selected to receive our grants this year.

- 2006: 4.13
- 2005: 4.41

2. I felt prepared to vote for the grant recipients.

- 2006: 4.50
- 2005: 4.58

3. The voting packet I received in the mail was important to my decision making.

- 2006: 4.44
- 2005: 4.48

4. The presentations by the finalists on June 8th were important to my decision making.

- 2006: 4.07
- 2005: 4.14

5. I received enough updated information and communication throughout the year from Impact Austin.

- 2006: 4.43
- 2005: 4.40

6. Impact Austin's email newsletter has been beneficial.

- 2006: 4.35
- 2005: 4.30

7. Impact Austin's periodic member social gatherings should be continued.

- 2006: 4.48
- 2005: 4.04

The Impact Austin board appreciates your comments as we work to meet the needs and expectations of our members. We strive to make our processes better and use feedback from the survey to guide us. We continually focus on preserving the integrity of our mission, and we thank you for your candid comments. If you have any comments or questions regarding the survey results, please contact Rebecca Powers at rpowers@impact-austin.org.

Representative quotes from the member survey:

"I'm really pleased with my experience with Impact Austin. I think it is a great organization with amazing leadership and a truly compelling story that makes me proud to be a member and want to recruit others to join."



CVM's official launch on July 24, 2006, was held in the Atrium at City Hall, attended by over 60 people who listened to comments made by guests and community representatives. Photographed here are Impact Austin board member, Kathleen Mack, Richard Moore (CVM client), MHMR Director, David Evans and CVM Coordinator, Teresa Jedinak. Mayor Will Wynn and State Representative Eddie Rodriguez each talked about the importance of programs that give back and add value to the community.

Richard Moore explained that CVM was critical to helping him find his new job and transition to a better life after difficult personal circumstances found him living in the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless. CVM changed his life. He stressed the importance of his personalized greeting on his voice mail box because when the call came in to offer him the job, the caller heard his voice. The caller had no idea that he lived in a homeless shelter, which could have posed a perception issue. He is now on a management track because of his work performance. Voice mail is taken for granted by those who have it, but it was Richard's stepping stone to a new job and apartment.

Teresa Jedinak has been working tirelessly with more than twenty-five partner non-profit organizations through training and providing materials to be used with their clients. Two hundred seventy-six voice mail boxes are being used by clients of the partner organizations. Of the group, 54% are male and 46% are female. Success stories are happening all the time. Stay tuned for more updates in future newsletters.

2005 Recipient: Communities in Schools



XY-Zone's project with Impact Austin is complete as of August 31, 2006. The end-of-program evaluation provided a snapshot of its success:

During the 2005-06 school year the XY-Zone at Crockett and Lanier High Schools enrolled 99 young men who received case management services. During the year XY-Zone staff provided support groups, worked with youth leaders to

"It keeps me mindful of the many needs of others. Helps me get out of my (semi) perfect little world and remember others less fortunate."

"Continue to allow members to assist the Impact Austin board with non-FAC tasks; this creates a base of invested women who become more visible to the Board."

"Diversity! There must be some way we can diversify our membership makeup." (Editorial note: Any thoughts members have are welcome!)

Membership and Coffees



Membership Update

As of September 1, 2006, we have 251 member commitments for the 2007 grant year! If you haven't sent in your 2007 member commitment card, please do. We want to "count you in" on our way to reaching our 400+ member goal.

Coffee Update

Our membership continues to grow because members host coffees and invite their friends to learn about Impact Austin. So far, 22 members have signed up to host coffees in their homes this fall. The dates, times and places of these coffees are listed on the Impact Austin website under the News and Events/Calendar Section. If you are interested in hosting a coffee, please contact Dawn Skinner at dskinner@impact-austin.org. She will assist you with logistics and sending out invitations.

Coffee at Grape Vine Market

The Impact Austin Board will host a coffee at Grape Vine Market--details below. If you know women who would be interested in learning about Impact Austin, please invite them.

- When: Thursday, October 5th at 6:30pm
- Where: Grape Vine Market, 7938 Great Northern Blvd
- Who: Any prospective member*
- RSVP REQUIRED:
dskinner@impact-austin.org or call 335-5540

design service-learning projects, and collaborated with other community organizations. 1,501 total hours of individual and group services were received by the students.

When asked how Impact Austin's grant made a difference in their organization, the community and the target population, they responded positively. According to Mike Hurewitz, Senior Programming Specialist, Communities in Schools, "The Impact Austin grant has had a tremendous impact on Communities In Schools, the XY-Zone Male Involvement Project, the schools served by the project expansion and, of course, the young men who were enrolled in the program. The agency itself benefited from the exposure surrounding the receipt of the grant. CIS has become better-recognized in the philanthropic community during the past year. Similarly, the investment of Impact Austin in the work of the XY-Zone has demonstrated to others in the community just how unique the program is. As a result, we are better able to bring our work to the attention of the public."

2004 Recipient: LifeWorks



The LifeWorks Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop continues to train clients in life and job skills. The training program is now open to applicants on a rolling admissions basis and provides more flexibility in staffing. A majority of the current crew will 'graduate' in October.

This fall, Ben & Jerry's will be selling ice cream at the following events:

- Austin City Limits Festival: 9/15-9/17
- Pecan Street Festival: 9/30-10/01
- ESPN College Game Day 17th Street Sponsor: 9/2, 9/9, 9/23, 9/30, 10/14, 11/4 and 11/24

Ben & Jerry's Article in the 9/1/06 Austin Business Journal

Join a Focus Area Committee

* Due to limited seating, current members may attend if they are bringing one or more prospective members.

Grape Vine Market is graciously providing wine and appetizers. Feel free to come a little early and do some shopping. Grape Vine Market is one of Austin's finest specialty food and wine stores.

Impact Conference

Success Through Sharing: On September 22nd and 23rd, Impact Austin will host the first-ever Impact Conference! Forty-five board members from seven 'Impact' organizations across the country will meet here in Austin to share successes, challenges, and best practices. Phylis Donelson, a founding Impact Austin board member and the conference director, has done a superb job over the last five months putting this event together. Thanks to Kathryn Burch, Karen Elliott, Debbie Reinhart, Peg Gavin, Debe McKeand, Joan Yaffe, Glenda Holmstrom, Nancy Word and the Impact Austin board for helping to make this conference a success! We can't wait to share what we learn in a future newsletter.

Fresh, New Look for Website

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the new Impact Austin website! Enjoy the pictures, candid shots and quotes from our members and grant recipients that truly exemplify Impact Austin's mission, vision and values. You can also check out our calendar for upcoming events and read about our previous recipients in the "See the Impact" section. We expect this site to be a great vehicle for increasing our community's awareness of Impact Austin and for recording wonderful stories along the way.

[Website Homepage](#)

Girls Giving Grants Update



We are excited to announce that Girls Giving Grants enters its second year with 26 members! We spent the summer reviewing and making improvements to our processes, as well as hosting recruiting events to share the Girls Giving Grants story with other young women in our community. Our membership is comprised of new and returning members who range in age from 13 to 18. They attend the following schools in the Austin area: Anderson High School, Bowie High School, St. Stephen's Episcopal School, St. Michael's Catholic Academy, Westlake High School, West Ridge Middle School and Westwood High School.



Are you interested in learning about the grant giving process? Do you want to know more about the various non-profits serving the needs of the Austin community? Just want to get involved? Consider joining one of the Focus Area Committees (FACs) responsible for reviewing Impact Austin grant applications and choosing the finalists our members vote on to receive our funding.

Participation on an FAC requires a time commitment of approximately 35-40 hours beginning in mid-January and continuing through mid-May, including 6-8 meetings and 2 site visits. While there is no obligation to serve on a committee, many of Impact Austin's members find this to be a fun learning experience.

- SIGN-UP DEADLINE: December 15th
- TRAINING CLASSES: January 11th, 13th or 18th

If you are interested in serving on an FAC in 2007,

[Please Click Here](#)

Dear Daisy,

Why did Impact Austin introduce the 110% campaign and what is the money used for?

Signed, Intrigued

Dear Intrigued,

Your \$1000 membership donation is used exclusively to fund the grants awarded by Impact Austin each year. We raise additional funds to pay for operational expenses such as printing, mailing, website maintenance, training and materials, insurance, accounting services and the annual meeting. Historically the board members and their families and friends gave financial contributions to help defray administrative costs. As our organization has advanced through three years of grant making, we must find other sources for funding operations. One option is the 110% Campaign that we introduced at the 2006 Annual Meeting in June whereby members can **voluntarily** contribute an extra 10% (\$100) when

Our Advisors this year are: Holly Turpin, Katherine Boone and Dina Mavridis.

Returning Advisor, Holly Turpin, is a junior at the University of Texas studying Business and is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Advisor, Dina Mavridis, also serves on the Board of Directors of Impact Austin. She graduated from Texas Christian University in 2000 and works as a salesperson for Velocity Electronics.

Advisor, Katherine Boone, is currently seeking her PhD in American History at the University of Texas and is a recent graduate of Princeton University. Katherine is a member of Impact Austin and volunteers with the Austin Humane Society.

For more information on Girls Giving Grants, please contact Lisa Lyons at llyons@girlsgivinggrants.org

they pay their membership donations each year. All 110% contributions are used help pay our day to day expenses. If you would like to help support Impact Austin in this way, your Membership Information Form has a section where you can indicate that amount. We are grateful for every contribution!

Regards,
Daisy

110% Campaign Makes a Difference



Since June, when this initiative was announced, members have contributed a total of \$10,400. An additional \$11,900 has been pledged and will be paid by 12/31/06. Because we spend up to 10% of the value of our

membership donations on operations, and we expect to have 400 members by 12/31/06, we need to raise \$40,000 to fund our operations this new fiscal year. So far, over half that amount has been pledged or paid. You are such generous members and we look forward to your continued participation. Stay tuned for updates in future newsletters.

Did You Know...

Mary Brooker, a long time Impact Austin member, told us, "Did you know that your United Way contribution can be directed to the non-profit of your choice? Impact Austin can be the recipient of your United Way donation."

Dina Mavridis, director of marketing communications
Impact Austin

email: newsletter@impact-austin.org
web: <http://www.impact-austin.org>

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