



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

September 2007

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- 9/26 Mayor Wynn talks on Global Warming at City Hall 6pm - Social 7pm - Presentation
- 10/1 Girls Giving Grants Membership Deadline
- 10/13 Grape Vine Market Informational Event 6:30-8:30pm
- 10/19 Girls Giving Grants Grant Applications Due
- 11/17 Grant Recipient Update ... save the date for the morning
- 12/3 Grape Vine Market Informational Event 6:30-8:30pm

Girls Giving Grants Update

Girls giving grants, the youth extension of Impact Austin, provides girls in grades 8-12 a similar, first-hand experience with philanthropy. We are actively seeking new members with a kick-off event scheduled for September 23rd.

Miranda Hoffman, a Lake Travis High School graduate, reflects on her experience with girls giving grants in 2006, "When our group chose the Austin Children's Shelter, the impact of our grant really hit home with us. We could relate to the teens in the shelter because they

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

Community Voice Mail, 2005 Grant Recipient, Helps Katrina Survivors Get Jobs

"Hello" might well be one of the first words Hurricane Katrina survivors needed to hear as they struggled to start their lives over in Austin. Community Voice Mail became one their lifelines - a way to reconnect by just being able to get phone messages.

Through an Impact Austin grant made in 2005, Community Voice Mail went live helping both hurricane victims, as well as Austinites served by social service agencies and suffering from a range of developmental disabilities, as well as mental, emotional and substance abuse disorders.

Grant recipient, Austin Travis County Mental Health/Mental Retardation (www.atcmhmr.com), administers more than 1,000 Community Voice Mailboxes for their clients. For many, Community Voice Mail provides the first stable contact method to connect with government agencies, employers, and even family members.



were our own age and we could see how much our grant for new clothing would mean to them. Girls giving grants has taught me more than any one organization has."

Please help us spread the word to potential new members. The deadline for joining is October 1st. We'd be happy to provide prepared materials to share or distribute if you can help us with recruitment.

Contact Dina at

dmavridis@girlsgivinggrants.org for more information.



Congratulations!!!

Impact Austin was awarded the 2007 Austin Chamber of Commerce Not-for-profit award for Community Relations --- congratulations to all our members for helping us achieve this award!



Hurricane Katrina survivors utilized Community Voice Mail as they sought to re-establish their credentials and obtain driver's licenses and social security cards.

"We had many people who were ready to get a job but needed an ID," said Andrew Bucknall, executive director of the American Dreams Self Sufficiency program (www.americandreamaustin.com). "It seems a simple thing but without an ID it's not possible to get a job in Austin. Many of the Katrina survivors had worked for years in the New Orleans hotel industry without ID's. They had the skills, but needed to regain their identity."

Bucknall related that FEMA benefits don't cover such basic necessities as phone service. "Trying to reestablish your identification with nothing is hard to do. So as their benefits are running out, they are trying to get a job without a number to receive call backs."

For one of Bucknall's clients who had finally secured duplicate identification documents, Community Voice Mail meant he now had a way to get calls for interviews. "He was very proud that within a week of signing up for Community Voice Mail he had a job," said Bucknall. "He was going through a hard time but this was a turning point for him and it wouldn't have been possible without Community Voice Mail."

Greetings from Rebecca



Can you believe we are starting our fifth year?! Over the summer, we have welcomed four new board members, finished our 3-year strategic plan and refined our processes - all of which are designed to give you, our member, a richer experience.

We are committed to extending **five** \$100,000 grants in 2008. That means we need 500 members by the end of this year - four short months! Please help us meet this goal by inviting your friends to an informational coffee or an event at Grape Vine Market this fall (dates can be found on our website in the calendar section at www.impact-austin.org). We have met our membership milestone each year by adding 100 members annually, and that's because you have told your friends about us. Our grassroots, word-of-mouth approach to growing our organization has served us well-please keep sharing the Impact Austin story!

Please let me know if I can personally do anything to help; one-on-one coffee, speaking to your women's group, whatever. Feel free to contact me at rpowers@impact-austin.org. I can't wait to celebrate with you in January when we reach our five year goal. Stay tuned!

Here's to 500 and beyond -

Rebecca

General Contact: newsletter@impact-austin.org.

www.impact-austin.org