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News

FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEMBERS

From Our Founder



'Continuous improvement' is one of the values we hold dear, and the Member Survey gives each member an opportunity to tell us what we're doing well and where we can improve. We sent the survey immediately following the Annual Meeting in June and 200+ members responded. We are currently reviewing the results and will share the details in the October e-newsletter. Many thanks to each of you who contributed your thoughts about your membership experience. We learn so much from your feedback, and it gives us a chance to review our processes and tweak them, as appropriate.

Membership Update

Recruiting Season is Here, and We Need Your Help!

The **September Grapevine Market Coffee** is just a week away on **Thursday, September 17, at 6:30 pm**. Please bring friends and colleagues and introduce them to Impact Austin. Attendees will learn about our mission and our various programs. Most importantly, you will hear from Julia Cuba, GENAustin's Executive Director. She will share what it means to be one of Impact Austin's 2009 Community Partners and what they've done with the \$102,000 we gave them in June.

Grapevine Market, our gracious and generous sponsor, will provide wine, appetizers and desserts. Grapevine Market is located at 7938 Great Northern Blvd., Austin, TX 78757.

Please RSVP to Pam Owens at powens@impact-austin.org

Fall Speaker Series

We are pleased to announce the **Fall Speaker Series** to be held on **Monday, October 19, 7:00 pm**, at Congregation Agudas Achim, Social Hall and Sanctuary at Dell Jewish Community Campus. This year you will hear from three amazing, articulate women whose life plans were altered in midstream and, as a result, have accomplished dreams they would never have thought possible. Plan to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to hear Kristin Armstrong, author and freelance writer, Caroline Boudreaux, founder and Executive Director of The Miracle Foundation, and Lorin Beller Blake, founder and CEO of Big Fish Nation. They will dare you to look inside, examine your fears and then inspire you to take the next step in your life-whatever it may be!

Look for an e-invitation in your inbox on September 21. You must register online, and the cost is \$20/person. Please bring friends!!

Please look for a mailing from Impact Austin this week. It includes a letter from the Marketing Committee and our latest brochure. Please feel free to share the brochure with a woman who might be a good prospect for membership. I look forward to seeing you at our fall events, and I encourage each member to share Impact Austin with a friend...if we all do that, we can achieve our 500+ member goal with ease!

- Rebecca

Powers

Mark Your Calendar

Grapevine Market Coffees

Thursday, September 17 and Thursday, October 29 at 6:30 pm
Please plan to attend and bring a friend or two!

Fall Speaker Series

Monday, October 19
7pm -9pm
Congregation Agudas Achim.
Social Hall and Sanctuary
Dell Jewish Community
Campus located at
7300 Hart Lane, Austin 78731

One Member's Story

by Glenda Goehrs



Kristin Armstrong, author and freelance writer



Caroline Boudreaux, founder and Executive Director of The Miracle Foundation



Lorin Beller Blake, founder and CEO of Big Fish Nation

Impact Through Involvement Girls Giving Grants (G3) Kicks off it's 5th Year!

On **Sunday, Sept 20th from 2:00-3:00 p.m.**, G3 will hold a membership recruiting event at Velocity Electronics, 2208 Energy Drive, Austin, TX 78758. Membership is open to girls in grades 8 through 12 in the Austin area who are willing to make the required \$100 donation and a commitment of time and energy from October 2009 through April 2010. G3 members are eligible to receive up to 30 hours community service credit through their participation in Girls Giving Grants. G3 is also in need of 2 enthusiastic adult advisors to help support their program.

If you or someone you know is interested in G3, please contact Dina Mavridis at dmavridis@girlsgivinggrants.org.

Membership deadline is September 25!

For more information, visit: www.girlsgivinggrants.org



I'm reluctant to serve on boards or committees because I have a hard time with bureaucratic red tape. I'm a project gal and get frustrated with the social and political overtones that often creep into civic and nonprofit activities. I'm still that way.

However, what my friend, Janice McLemore, had told me earlier about Impact Austin piqued my interest. I decided to check it out. The idea of consolidating my shotgun method of giving into a channel that could make a significant local impact really appealed to me. On December 2007, I sent in my check, and ended up being the very last member (#510) to join for the year 2008.

On a hunch that this group had a different way of working, I signed up for the Family Focus Area Committee. I came away amazed at the efficiency and organizational expertise immediately evident in the awards process. No wasted time - meetings started and ended on time and followed a simple but effective agenda. We received a three-ring notebook with written protocols to guide us through each step of the process. I met super-smart women from many different professions and with varied interests. Although the group was friendly and welcoming, members were clearly not there to network for business contacts. We were there on a mission, and that's how we worked for the three months it took to complete that mission and make the final grant recommendations.

After that experience I wondered if it was a fluke. Maybe our co-chairs had been particularly gifted leaders. I wanted to serve the following year (2009) on another FAC, but doubted that this committee could be as efficient as the previous year's. Wrong again. Serving



2009 G3 officers

Impact Austin in the News



Impact Austin was recently featured in austinwoman Magazine. Click here to read the article and find out how we're, "Paying It Forward...Again!":
http://www.austinwomanmagazine.com/Articles/2009/08_AUG/34_News.html

Connecting with Impact Austin

We invite you to connect with Impact Austin's social media community. This is a great way to keep in touch with other Impact Austin members and stay up-to-date on our current events. Please join us on:



And don't forget to check out **Rebecca's Blog** at:
<http://impactaustinblog.wordpress.com/>

What Our Members Are Saying

Next month we will share the details from the 2008-2009 Member Survey

on the Culture Focus Area Committee was just as rewarding.

Impact Austin sells itself. That tagline "Ordinary women - extraordinary impact" couldn't say it any better.

What does your membership mean to you and what would you like others to know about Impact Austin? We'd love to hear your story!

To share your story, please email Anne Webster at awebster@impact-austin.org

but in the meantime, here is what a few members had to say about their Impact Austin experience:

Q: What suggestions do you have for retaining existing members?

A: "The kick-off teas/coffees/wine tastings are a good way to remind us that it's time to reinvest in the community. I enjoy meeting the women involved in Impact Austin and hearing from some of the organizations that have received grant funding. It would be difficult to walk away from giving when you see who you are helping."

Q: Thoughts or ideas for changes to improve the FAC experience.

A: "My co-chairs and fellow members were great -- nothings perfect, but this was close."

Q: What if anything, would you change about the format for the annual meeting?

A: "Nothing. I really enjoyed it - one of my favorite events of the year. I was really pleased when some of my friends and colleagues who have just joined turned to me afterwards and said, "Wow, I really GET this now. This is really a great organization."

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