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News

FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEMBERS

From Our Founder



Researchers studied 34 students at the University of Virginia, taking them to the base of a steep hill and fitting them with a weighted backpack. They were then asked to estimate the steepness of the hill. Some participants stood next to friends during the exercise, while others were alone. The students who stood with friends gave lower estimates of the steepness of the hill. And the longer the friends had known each other, the less steep the hill appeared (printed in the New York Times, April 20, 2009).

What is the message here as it relates to Impact Austin? To me, it's a reminder that each fall we start at the 'base of a steep hill' called membership recruitment. If only one person had the job of finding new members, reaching the top would seem impossible. But, when we face the climb together, the job becomes easier, more fun

Register Today for "An Inspirational Evening"

Fall Speaker Series, Monday, October 19, 7:00 pm

Invite a friend (or two) and join us for "An Inspirational Evening" as we 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. 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!

[CLICK HERE to Register](#)

\$20/person

Location: Congregation Agudas Achim, Social Hall and Sanctuary at Dell Jewish Community Campus, 7300 Hart Lane, Austin, Texas 78731

Membership Update

October 29 Grapevine Market Coffee

We had a record turnout for our Grapevine Market Coffee in September. Over 20 members brought friends to hear the Impact Austin story and many joined! If you missed the chance to attend with your friends, have no fear! We will host another coffee on Thursday, October 29. Please invite your friends to come learn more about us. You will receive an evite about this event in early October.

One of our founding members attended the September coffee with a business colleague she had invited to hear our story. She beamed with pride as she told us her enthusiasm for Impact Austin hasn't

and reaching the goal seems within our grasp. With each member's help, we can reach our 500-member goal again this year. Thank you for your continued support, and please share Impact Austin with a friend...soon!

- Rebecca Powers

Mark Your Calendar

Fall Speaker Series

Monday, October 19, 7pm

Location: Congregation Agudas Achim, Social Hall and Sanctuary at Dell Jewish Community Campus
7300 Hart Lane, Austin, Texas 78731

Speakers: Kristin Armstrong, Caroline Boudreaux and Lorin Beller Blake
Cost: \$20

[CLICK HERE to Register](#)

Grapevine Market Coffee

Thursday, October 29,
6:30pm

Location: Grape Vine Market
7938 Great Northern Blvd., Austin, TX
78757

Member Orientation

(for current and new members who want to learn more about Impact Austin)

Friday, November 13,
11:30pm-1:00pm &

Monday, December 14,
7:00pm-8:30pm

Location: Rebecca Powers' home

11107 Callanish Park Drive,
Austin, TX 78750

Focus Area Committee (FAC) Orientation

(for members who plan to participate on an FAC this upcoming year and have not participated on an FAC in the past)

Tuesday, December 8,
6:00-7:30pm

Location: The Commons Room at Laura's Library
9411 Bee Cave Road, Austin,
Texas 78733

Wednesday, January 6,
6:00-7:30pm

Location: The Gathering Room at Westbank Library
1309 Westbank Dr, Austin, TX
78746

waned since the day she joined in 2003. Her colleague joined that evening!



Rebecca Powers speaking at the Sept. GVM Coffee

We have also planned in-home coffees at our members' homes this fall. If you would like to introduce Impact Austin to your friends at one of these events, please contact Becky Griner at bgriner@impact-austin.org for details:

Thursday, October 15 (Wimberley)
Wednesday, October 21 (zip code 78733)
Monday, October 26 (zip code 78746)
Wednesday, October 28 (zip code 78750)
Monday, November 2 (zip code 78732)
Monday, November 9 (zip code 78738)
Tuesday, November 10 (zip code 78746)

We meet our membership goal because you invite your friends and colleagues to our coffees. We appreciate your support and attendance at these important membership recruitment events.

Member Orientation: Do you want to know more about Impact Austin?

At these sessions, members learn more about our brief history, organizational structure and volunteer opportunities. It's a great way to meet other members as we learn together. Members, whether seasoned or new, are invited to attend an orientation. Please refer to the 'Mark Your Calendar' section of this newsletter for dates and locations. To register or ask questions, please contact Becky Griner at bgriner@impact-austin.org.

Member's Speak Out about Impact Austin

Thank you to the 259 members who responded to the Impact Austin Member Survey. The high level of participation provided valuable feedback we will work to incorporate this year. Overwhelmingly, Impact Austin members report that they are very satisfied with their experience and a very high percentage intend to renew their membership!

Thursday, January 7,
6:00-7:30pm
Location TBD

What Our Members Are Saying

"Being a member of Impact Austin has changed the way I think about women's philanthropy. It's meaningful and soulful and not just another sorority event. I wish I had a daughter to see her involved in G3, but I'm glad to be demonstrating to my boys the impact that a group of committed women can have on their community. Impact Austin Women ROCK!!!"

"The video at the annual meeting was excellent. It drove the linkage between funding and impact. I would like to see it loaded on the web-site for all to view. As people watch there is pride in being a member and even more importantly it is the voice of our community partners proclaiming the value of our process and the organization."

"I never miss the annual meeting, I work my family vacations around it just to attend. It is the best "natural high" of my year."

"Keep authentic and don't apologize to anyone for the rigor of our process. It has served us well and in today's climate of fraud and greed we stand out as a beacon of truth and integrity. Continue to champion the importance of NPO collaboration in order to optimize community donations."

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

Connect with Us

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:



The Committee Cabinet has taken your feedback into consideration and will be focusing in the following areas this year.

- 98% of members were satisfied/very satisfied with the ten finalists and five winners. Some concerns were expressed about the sustainability of a few projects and there were questions about the alignment of candidates with their categories. In response, next year the Grants Committee plans to include an educational overview of the FAC/decision-making process as part of the finalist packet.
- Although support for the "green" approach to distributing the finalist packet was very high, quite a few members reported issues downloading the documents. As a result, the Grants Committee plans to improve the process to make sure it is easier in the future.
- 95% agree that the finalist report packet was important to their decision making although many acknowledged the high impact of the candidate presentations as well. As in past years, some raised the concern that the presentations held too much sway compared to the finalist report.
- High level of approval for the 2009 annual meeting. Members liked the changes made this year but also suggested many good ideas for next year which the planning committee is taking into consideration.
- Members expressed an interest in hearing more about our community partners' programs and member stories. We've already incorporated this feedback into our e-newsletter by having more member testimonials and a community partner spotlight.

The survey also produced helpful demographic information:

- Median age is in the 50's.
- Most members are long-time Austinites --- - 32%, 10 to 20 years, 44% more than 20 years.
- 73% are involved with some other nonprofit in Austin besides Impact Austin, either as a volunteer, employee, board member, donor, or supporter.

Thank you again for responding to the survey, we take your feedback seriously and work to improve Impact Austin to the best of our ability. If you have a particular passion for improving Impact Austin, join a committee - we can always use more volunteers in marketing, membership development, grants, events, and many other areas. If interested in getting involved contact Kay Wilemon, Volunteer Management Chair at kwilemon@austin.rr.com.

Impact through Involvement



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

Our Mission

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.

Our Vision

Our vision is that our women are inspirational role models reaching their full giving potential for a better quality of life in our community. We will ensure our long-term sustainability by tapping into the talents of our members and building Impact Austin from the "inside out."

Our Values

Transparency - We are an open book.

Excellence - We are thorough, professional and go above and beyond.

Inclusiveness - We are open to all women.

Democracy - Each member has an equal voice.

Integrity - We are honest and ethical.

Respect - We consider the impact of our words and actions on others.

Accountability - We say what we're going to do and we do it.

Innovation - We are creative, but prudent risk-takers.

Coming Around the Corner - Impact Austin 2010 Focus Area Committees

Are you interested in learning about the grant giving process and the various non-profits serving the needs of our community? Would you like to collaborate with a diverse group of women who are responsible for reviewing Impact Austin grant applications and choosing the finalists our members vote on to receive our funding?

If so, consider participating on a Focus Area Committee (FAC). There are five committees, one for each of the Impact Austin funding areas: culture, education, environment, family and health and wellness. Participation on a FAC requires a time commitment of 40-50 hours beginning mid-January and continuing through mid-May. This commitment includes training, 5-6 committee meetings, individual and team research, 2-3 site visits once semi-finalists are identified and additional work with the finalists prior to the annual meeting. It is a labor intensive and rewarding experience.

Watch for an email in early November providing more information on the FAC sign-up process. Or, for additional information contact Nancy Sutherland at nsutherland@impact-austin.org.

Community Partner Spotlight Capital IDEA and GENaustin

Capital IDEA lifts working families out of poverty by sponsoring low-income adults in career education leading to lifelong financial stability. The Impact Austin grant provides tuition, fees, books, childcare, transportation assistance, career counseling and case management to 50 participants to ensure success in higher education or training. On average, graduates triple their annual income after completing the program - from an average of \$13,000/year when they enter the program to \$40,000 upon entering employment.

Ana came to this country from Peru on a pre-med scholarship. Her mother became ill, forcing her to leave school to work and send money home. When she learned about Capital IDEA, she was a divorced single parent, working at Dell as a security guard making \$9.75/hr. She enrolled at Austin Community College (ACC) to become a Registered Nurse, aced all of her first year classes, was elected Vice President of the nursing honor society, and organized service projects benefitting the community. She has won academic awards and will graduate from ACC in December 2009 with her RN Associates degree. In fulfilling her dream of a career in medicine, she says, "I'm a leader and I serve my community. I'm a changed woman!" She plans to work toward her Bachelors in Nursing at UT Austin, with the goal of becoming a Certified Nurse Anesthetist.

Continuous improvement -

Through feedback and other input, we are always improving.



Ana and her children

You are invited to join Capital IDEA at its 10th Anniversary Bash on Sunday, October 11, from 4:30-9:00 pm. Celebrate with dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and a diamond earring raffle - all proceeds go to help participants like Ana. Tickets are \$100 per person, and can be purchased by going to <http://www.capitalidea.org/Bash.html>, and clicking on the Contact/RSVP link.

GENaustin

With the start of the new school year, GENaustin has hired and trained high school girls for clubGEN. They are reaching more girls than ever before, with programs on school campuses in Leander, Round Rock, Manor, Pflugerville, Austin, Del Valle, Hays and Eanes. GENaustin will reach 3,500 girls this year, including girls at campuses funded with Impact Austin's support.

Sierra, a seventh-grader, shared a difficult personal story with her club about her mother's alcoholism and its effects on her family. She reports that she wants to be free of alcohol in her life and already sees her club as a safe place where she can seek support from friends and older peers. Nationally, 69% of teen girls drink on a regular basis. She enjoyed the clubGEN curriculum in September, which focused on bonding activities and trust building.

Sierra is also excited about attending GENaustin's Girls Now! Conference on November 14. This one day conference was created specifically for 5th - 12th grade girls, but also offers programming for parents, educators and social workers. There will be dynamic, interactive workshops on issues such as cyber bullying, self-image, dating, diversity, media literacy, parent-daughter relationships and physical health and wellness. The event is devoted to connecting girls and adults who have questions with resources and experts who have answers.

Experience the excitement yourself! You can register for the conference at www.genaustin.org.



GENaustin High School Leaders

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