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From Our Founder



I am reminded each fall of how well we accomplish our mission. We just received the independent auditor's report, and like in previous years, we had a 'clean' audit. That is a testament to the importance we place on making sure our records are accurate, that we keep the necessary documentation and that the numbers 'add up' at the end of the fiscal year. Kudos to Kathrine Weaver and Val Kirk for assisting the auditor and providing the necessary documentation.

Now that the audit is complete, we will be sending the FY2010 Annual Report to each member. Please look for it in your mailbox at home in the next few days. The Marketing Committee did a splendid job recapping the year and finding a way to put lots of information in a small amount of space! You can now view our audited financials on our website: www.impact-austin.org. Click

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Membership Update

The Time is Now to Introduce a Friend to Impact Austin

Once again we are recruiting in a difficult economy and will need everyone's help to reach our goal of 500 members. Let's live our name again and impact Austin by funding all five focus areas in June of 2011.

If you have not yet brought a friend to a coffee or shared the Impact Austin story, it's not too late! We have the following home coffees scheduled:

Wednesday, November 17 @ 7 p.m. **(78738)**

Tuesday, November 22 @ 7 p.m. **(78746)**

Wednesday, December 1 @ 7 p.m. **(78731)**



on the News and Events tab.

And, it wouldn't be right if I didn't ask you all...one more time...to bring a friend to an Impact Austin coffee. This is a challenging year, and we want to support the Membership Development team in reaching our 500-member goal. It's not about us...it's about being able to extend five \$100K grants in the community next June. The women are out there...please help us...you have come thru in spades every year...thank you!!

May your Thanksgiving holiday weekend be filled with family, laughter and fun....

- Rebecca Powers
Founder and CEO

Mark Your Calendar

Member Orientation

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

**Tuesday, November 30, 2010
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

*The Home of Becky Griner
11106 Oak Knoll Drive
Austin, TX 78759*

Contact Becky Griner at bgriner@impact-austin.org or 512-917-5712 to RSVP or for more information

Focus Area Committee (FAC) Orientation

(For members who plan to participate on an FAC in 2011 and have not participated on an FAC in the past. Returning members are welcome, too!)

**Tuesday, December 7, 2010
6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

*The Commons Room at
Laura's Library
9411 Bee Cave Road
Austin, TX 78733*

Tuesday, December 7 @ 7 p.m. (78738)

Wednesday, December 8 @ 7 p.m. (78733)

Also, our "Last Chance" Community Coffee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse at Mosaic at Mueller Apartments, 4600 Mueller Boulevard, Austin, TX 78723 ([get directions](#)). Amy Mills, Executive Director of Emancipet and Impact Austin member, will share her experience of being on both sides of the Impact Austin grant process.

You and your friends are always welcome at any of these scheduled coffees. Please contact Becky Griner at bgriner@impact-austin.org or 512-917-5712 to RSVP or for additional details on any of the coffees. We expect to add a few more coffees dates so check the calendar on the Impact Austin website, www.impact-austin.org, for new additions.

The only way we will be successful in reaching our goal of 500 members for 2011 is if each of us participates in spreading awareness of Impact Austin. We - and the nonprofit community - need your help this year more than ever. Please be a part of our recruiting process by sharing your personal Impact Austin story with a friend, family member, co-worker or acquaintance and by inviting them to one of our coffees.

Member Orientation: An Opportunity for New and Seasoned Members

Our Orientations provide an overview of Impact Austin's history, organizational structure, and volunteer opportunities. Both new and seasoned members have a chance to learn more about Impact Austin and meet members of the Operations Staff, Board Members, and of course, one another. The next Orientation will be Tuesday, November 30th at the home of Becky Griner. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Becky Griner at bgriner@impact-austin.org or 512-917-5712.

Impact Austin On The Move

Update on Our Field Trips

On November 6th, a group of about 20 Impact Austin "guinea pigs" hopped on a bus for a trial run of our "Impact Austin on the Move" project. The goal of this project is to allow our members the opportunity to visit some of our Community Partners and learn more about the programs or projects we have funded. It is all the love of a site visit without the pressure of a \$100,000 grant hanging in the balance!



Wednesday, January 5, 2011

6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, January 6, 2011

6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Church Library at
Westover Hills Church of Christ
(entrance facing Steck)
8332 Mesa Drive
Austin, TX 78759
(corner of Steck and Mesa)

*Contact Connie Lawyer at
clawyer@impact-austin.org to
RSVP or for more information*

Discovery Day

(Educational forum for
members to learn about current
issues and trends in each
focus area)

Saturday, January 8, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

St. David's Episcopal Church
301 E. 8th St
3rd Floor Sumners Hall
Austin, TX 78701

Member Spotlight

Oriana Wright
G3 President

Oriana Wright, president of Girls Giving Grants (G3), spoke on a panel at the Association of Small Foundations national conference in Austin last month. The topic was "funding women and girls to change community". She sat alongside two illustrious panel members and when it was her turn, she shared her G3 experience from the heart, with humor and passion. She got a standing ovation after speaking... unprecedented... to a group of about 60 conference attendees. Her experiential learning and her ability to



Boarding the bus for the Impact Austin on the Move trial run

What happened on a beautiful fall day in Austin was transformational. We thought we wanted to touch our money, to see our donations at work. But we had it backwards - our money reached out and touched each of us. Everyone who spent the morning visiting "Communities in Schools' XY-Zone" at Lanier High School and "College Forward's College 101 for Parents" left knowing that Impact Austin truly does make a difference in our community! Special thanks to Mary Campana of Communities in Schools and Lisa Fielder of College Forward for working with us on this pilot program and for planning presentations that exceeded our expectations. We hope to offer "Impact Austin on the Move" field trips as early as Spring of 2011. You will want to get on the bus!

Speaker Series Recap!

Kevin Salwen brought his family's story to life at our 3rd annual Speaker Series on October 18. In keeping with the theme of his book, *The Power of Half*, he challenged us to think about ways we individually could give half of something to make our community better. Half of our free time as a volunteer. Half of our weekly coffee money donated to a nonprofit that is aligned with our values. Kevin's down to earth style resonated with the audience of 150+ attendees. He shared poignantly and with humor...a great combination. Thanks, Kevin! There are still a few books for sale at \$10 if you need a gift. Contact Rebecca Powers at rpowers@impact-austin.org if you are interested.

articulate how she's changed because of her involvement in G3 really moved the crowd. Some of the attendees want to go back to their hometowns and start this type of organization. Spreading awareness is powerful...and Oriana did it beautifully!!



Oriana (pictured above, right) spoke with a session attendee that said a light bulb went off when she heard Oriana speak. And, she is eager to give this opportunity to young women in her part of the country.

In Oriana's own words: "I loved having the opportunity to further the awareness of women in the philanthropic world. G3 has become such an integral and amazing part of my life that I was excited to spread the word. G3 has given me many new perspectives of the world we are all living in. It is one of my biggest dreams to see my passion for giving back ignite that same passion in those I interact with."

NEW for FY2011 -We want to know who your favorite Community Partner is and why. The members of Impact Austin would love to hear from you!

To share your story, please email Laura Green at newsletter@impact-austin.org

Connect with Us

We invite you to visit us online at www.impact-austin.org and 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:



Kevin Salwen stayed to meet Impact Austin members and friends and sign copies of his book after his keynote address

Impact Through Involvement

Join Impact Austin 2011 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 late November for FAC signup or for additional information contact Connie Lawyer at clawyer@impact-austin.org.

Community Partner Spotlight

Ballet East Dance Academy

The 126 students enrolled in the Eastside Dance Academy, a 2nd year Impact Austin Community Partner, are experiencing an array of dance classes: Jazz, Mexican Folklorico, Hip Hop and Salsa; all

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

[View our profile on LinkedIn](#) 

And don't forget to check out [Rebecca's Blog](#)

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 Mission

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.

taught by professional dancer/choreographers. Enrollment this semester increased and includes 10 special needs students.



Eastside Memorial High School students in dance class

Based on the program evaluation conducted at the end of the 2009/2010 school year, students perceived themselves to be more motivated to come to school because of these dance classes. They also expressed appreciation for acquiring new skills and for working with others. "I met new people. I learned to dance with a partner and in a group." (Salvador, age 19) "To dance in a group... communication, learning sequences more quickly..(it became) like a family, I met people I never would have met otherwise." (Rochell, age 14) Students are working hard preparing for their fall performance on December 11th.



Students prepare for their fall performance

And Ballet East Dance Company recently initiated a program at Martin Middle School, with a grant focused on delinquency

prevention, offering this same positive alternative to students who might otherwise be tempted to fight, try drugs, and join gangs or drop out. "It isn't just dancing," says Rodolfo Mendez, Director of Ballet East and the Eastside Academy, "it's what they get out of it—belonging to a positive group, learning to set goals and achieve them through discipline. Our focus has been keeping students in school.

Read more about Ballet East outreach at: <http://www.balleteast.org/>.
Come see the Eastside Dance Academy dancers in action:

December 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Eastside Memorial High School
1012 Arthur Stiles Rd. 78721

Ballet East Dance Academy received Impact Austin's 2009 Culture Grant for the Eastside Dance Academy program. This program has created a transformative dance program at Eastside Memorial High School. The program has helped draw and hold students in school by offering them the opportunity to connect to a positive group activity, attract attention by acquiring the self-discipline, skills, and confidence to perform, and help them see and plan beyond their present circumstances.

Save The Date!

Discovery Day 2011

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 8, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

The Discovery Day team, headed by Jackie Mata, and including Sherrie Frachtman, AK Schmidt and Maria Lozano, is proud to present its line-up of great speakers with vast knowledge regarding the topics they will share. They will challenge our thinking and educate us about issues and opportunities facing our Central Texas region.

Demographics: Where the children are now

Sylvia Acevedo, Founder, President and CEO of Communicard

Health and Wellness: Academic medicine and its impact on our local economy and patient care

Greg Hartman, President and CEO University Medical Center
Brackenridge

Education: AISD drop-out rate: causation, prevalence, ramifications, and solutions

Mel Waxler, General Counsel for AISD

Culture: How can Austin sustain itself as a magnet for arts, culture and creativity?

Cookie Ruiz, Working Chair, CreateAustin Leadership Council

Family: Affordable housing issues and answers

Francie Ferguson, Director, Neighborworks Multifamily Initiative

Environment: in progress

Be on the lookout for an email invitation in the next couple weeks. If you have questions, please contact Jackie Mata at jmata@impact-austin.org.

Girls Giving Grants

Six Years and Going Strong!

Girls Giving Grants (G3) is in its sixth year of collective giving. There are 52 members this year from over 15 middle schools and high schools as well as seven dedicated adult leaders. Thirty Community Partners applied for their grant this year and in April, one of them will be awarded \$5200. The girls began reviewing the grant applications on October 31. Last year's grant recipient was Austin Sunshine Camps; and this year, the leadership group of G3 (there are 18 girls who hold leadership positions) will volunteer their time on a Saturday afternoon with Austin Sunshine Camps.



New G3 Members

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