



## Impact Austin Newsletter

December 2006

### Greetings!

This newsletter includes the following articles:

\*Message from the President \*Spotlight on 2005 Recipient: Community Voice Mail \*Girls Giving Grants Update \*110% Campaign Update \*FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP: Help us reach our 400+ member goal by 12/31/06! \*NEW OPPORTUNITY: Grant Review Finance Committee \*SIGN UP NOW: Join a Focus Area Committee by December 15th deadline \*MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Discovery Day Forum on Saturday, January 20, 2007 \*Dear Daisy \*CBS Evening News with Katie Couric \*SWEET CHARITY: Donate to Impact Austin while you shop!

### Message from the President

**You must do the thing you think you cannot do."**

--Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)  
American Stateswoman



Ancient wisdom holds that things that come in threes are good luck. Three years ago Impact

Austin was born. Three women pledged \$1,000 each and made a commitment to inspire others to serve Austin. We are now 350+ women strong, and we have truly left our mark on our community.

As our next chapter begins, we are taking a look back -- and forward. I want to invite all of you to join us in this process. Our group is so rich in talent. Please contact me at [rpowers@impact-austin.org](mailto:rpowers@impact-austin.org) to share your thoughts.

We are revisiting our strategic plan and restructuring our organization to advance our mission, vision and values. The

### FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP: Help us reach our 400+ member goal by 12/31/06!



We currently have 358 member commitments, but we're not done yet! We still have three coffees left:

Monday, 12/11, 7pm 78731  
Wednesday, 12/13, 7pm 78735  
Thursday, 12/14, 7pm 78735

If you would like to bring a friend to one of these coffees, please contact Dawn Skinner at [dskinner@impact-austin.org](mailto:dskinner@impact-austin.org). Or, we can share the Impact Austin story one-on-one with a prospective member-- just let us know.

Our informational gathering at Grape Vine Market on

reorganization will begin later this month as we embark on a strategic planning process. We envision many more opportunities for leadership and involvement. Some of the areas where we seek your assistance are finance, fundraising, grants process, grants management, strategic planning, marketing, member education, member recruitment, finance and more. Please tell us about your unique experience, skills and abilities.

I am so excited about enriching our organization with our members' many talents. As we embark on the exhilarating road of change we need you to be a part of this journey. Let me hear from you today!

Thanks for all you do to assure the continued success of Impact Austin.

Gratefully,  
Rebecca Powers

### Spotlight on 2005 Recipient: Community Voicemail



#### CVM Success Story

This story is taken from the Community Voice Mail Newsletter and accompanied by a release form signed by Senobia Allison.

Senobia Allison entered Goodwill's Job Source program in March, 2006. She had moved to Austin three years ago from Gary, Indiana to live close to relatives. Ms. Allison had little employment experience and even less knowledge about the social services resources available in Austin. However, she did possess a willingness to follow the suggestions made by her case manager about how to look for and secure a job. Employment was a critical concern for Ms. Allison who is a single mother living in public housing with her two children.

The first recommendation made to Ms. Allison was to set up a Community Voice Mail phone number and record her personal greeting. She soon realized the importance of having the ability to be reached. The

November 30th was a wonderful success. Photographed above from left to right are: board member Cindy Moreland; guests Judy Wallace and Kate McLagan; and member Nancy Sutherland.

### NEW OPPORTUNITY: Grant Review Finance Committee



Do you have financial experience? Are you interested in sharing your expertise by participating on our newly formed Grant Review Finance Committee? This is a separate and independent committee from the Focus Area Committee. It is primarily responsible for reviewing the financials from grant applicants and for fielding financial questions from the Focus Area Committees during the grant review process.

The Grant Review Finance Committee works from approximately March 15th through April 20th. This may be the perfect spot for you--especially if you do not have the time to participate on a Focus Area Committee. Please contact Julie Kreager for more information: [jkreager@impact-austin.org](mailto:jkreager@impact-austin.org)

### SIGN UP NOW: Join a Focus Area Committee by December 15th deadline!

Even if you aren't planning to send your membership payment until the last minute, but you want to serve on a Focus Area Committee, please sign up now! We want to know your committee preferences, and you must also sign up for training if you have not participated on an FAC previously. Please click on 'Join Here' below.

[Join Here](#)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Discovery Day Forum on Saturday, January 20, 2007



All Impact Austin members are cordially invited to attend our first member education forum where local community leaders will share their professional insights about the most urgent needs facing our region; what needs are being funded/not funded; how our grants could make the biggest impact; and other pertinent topics. Focus Area Committee members will find this especially helpful for the upcoming grant review process. Please look for an email in early January with more details and the final schedule.

potential job interview appointment request might not wait until she came home. Ms. Allison had a phone, but not voice mail technology or an answering machine. Without her CVM number, she may have been passed over for the next applicant. Within weeks she was offered and accepted a retail position with Goodwill Industries of Central Texas.

Ms. Allison's determination was celebrated in September when she was honored as Achiever of the Month for the Job Source program at Goodwill. They recognized her for having made model use of the assistance offered.

For more information about CVM, contact Ms. Teresa Jedinak at [Teresa.Jedinak@atcmhmr.com](mailto:Teresa.Jedinak@atcmhmr.com)

### Girls Giving Grants Update



The membership has adopted an ice-breaker exercise called, "My Moments" where each member shares a talent or personal story with the group. Photographed above is Brittany Burch teaching the group how to lead a band. This activity teaches girls leadership skills along with the knowledge of talents such as band, dance, acting, etc...

Each Application Review Committee has finished reviewing its applications and will now cross-review other committees' applications.

For more information on Girls Giving Grants, please contact Lisa Lyons at [lyons@girlsgivinggrants.org](mailto:lyons@girlsgivinggrants.org)

### 110% Campaign Update

As of 11/29/06:

Received: \$16,350  
Promised: \$7,850

Thanks for your generosity!

### Dear Daisy,

I cannot sit on a Focus Area Committee because it takes more time than I can give. Are there other ways I can share my talents with Impact Austin?

Signed, Interested

Dear Interested,

You bring up an excellent point! In the early days of Impact Austin, a small group of board members did all of the work because we were learning as we grew. Now that we have completed three grant cycles, we have a good grasp of our processes and how members can help us in various aspects of running our organization -- making it a more inclusive operation. Please look for a survey in your email inbox in January that will ask you to tell us what your abilities/experience/interest areas are. We look forward to hearing from you!

Regards,  
Daisy

### CBS Evening News with Katie Couric



A CBS Evening News crew visited the Impact Conference to get a bird's eye view of women 'giving together'. During the week of Thanksgiving, Katie Couric aired a segment about the growing trend of women's giving circles across the country which featured Impact Austin and LifeWorks. You can see the story at ['Giving Circle' Proves Power In Numbers](#)

Many thanks to former Impact Austin board member, Karen Frost, for creating this opportunity for us!

### SWEET CHARITY: Donate to Impact Austin while you shop!



Shop at Sweet Charity on Wednesday, December 13th, and 25% of your pre-tax purchase can be donated to Impact Austin! You can get your holiday shopping done and give to Impact Austin at the same time! Sweet Charity is a project of Seton Medical Center, with proceeds benefiting charity care at Seton. The shop

offers a variety of fun and eclectic gifts. It is located in the 26 Doors Shopping Center (1206 W. 35th St.) across from Seton Medical Center. Hours on December 13th: 9:00 am until 8:00 pm. Click below for more details.

[SWEET CHARITY Website](#)

Dina Mavridis, Director of Marketing Communications  
Impact Austin

email: [newsletter@impact-austin.org](mailto:newsletter@impact-austin.org)

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