

Grant Outcomes Report

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Ordinary women...extraordinary impact®



DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

We invite you to read our Grant Outcomes Report outlining how our Community Partners implemented their plans. We hope you will be inspired by their results. This issue features six Community Partners, whose grant programs were completed as of May 2013.

Our support of these organizations reflects our commitment to transform lives in our Central Texas community. We have learned alongside our Community Partners as they have faced challenges, overcome barriers, and achieved extraordinary successes. The lasting friendships developed as a result of these partnerships have changed forever our hearts individually and as an organization.

It is through the successful execution of our Community Partners that we can continue to deepen our commitment to the Central Texas community in a meaningful way!

Sincerely,
Impact Austin Community Partners Committee and Marketing Committee

AGE OF CENTRAL TEXAS



Resources for Caregiving for Seniors
Focus Area.....**Health and Wellness**
Grant Amount.....**\$105,000**
Grant Year.....**2010**
Grant Period.....**7/1/2010 – 6/30/2012**
Website.....**www.ageofcentraltx.org**

AGE of Central Texas provides education and support to people all along the spectrum of growing older. AGE serves older adults and caregivers through its primary interrelated programs: adult day health care, caregiver education and resources, early memory loss support, health equipment lending, and peer-based computer classes for seniors.

The Impact Austin grant was used to expand HELP (Health Equipment Lending Program) in order to increase the durable medical equipment (e.g. wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, power lift recliners) available in addition to improving access to the equipment. The program aimed to increase public awareness of HELP and improve efficiency of storage, retrieval, and distribution of equipment, while also optimizing volunteer activity and community cooperation.

During the grant period, the program exceeded the goals of number of pieces of equipment loaned (a projected increase from over 750 pieces in 2009 to more than 1,500 annually). In the first grant year, AGE loaned 2,405 pieces. In the second grant year, AGE loaned 2,337 pieces. AGE created a media awareness campaign and collaborated with other organizations to increase public awareness of AGE's need for donations, which also increased the demand from seniors. The grant enabled AGE to hire a full-time staff member, who propelled the previously small program forward by creating education and safety materials for distribution with equipment, better utilizing volunteers, researching and establishing the program structure and guidelines, and helping to install an inventory tracking system to record and track donations. The HELP expansion has helped AGE improve its logistics, public awareness, data tracking, and volunteer management.

Impact Austin authorized a change in the proposed budget: \$11,000 was moved from the travel portion of the budget that was not needed and used to convert an old kitchen to a new office for HELP, providing improved customer service and a better and safer working environment for staff.

A STORY FROM AGE: *After learning about the HELP program through local news sources, a man in Kyle decided to help by donating a special, and very expensive, kind of walker called a U-Step, designed for people with Parkinson's or other tremor-type conditions. Our staff had never before encountered this rare piece of equipment. But the world works in mysterious ways. Less than a week later, the HELP phone rang. The caller was a man caring for his father-in-law, who has Parkinson's. Did we have any idea how he could get a U-Step walker? His family was unable to afford one. He came to pick up the walker the same day, and his father-in-law will now enjoy much greater freedom of mobility than he could just the week before!*

CASA OF TRAVIS COUNTY



Transitioning Youth Program

Focus Area.....**Family**

Grant Amount.....**\$105,000**

Grant Year.....**2010**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2010 – 6/30/2012**

Website.....**www.casatrails.org**

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Travis County recruits, screens, trains, and supervises volunteers to provide Guardian ad Litem representation for abused and neglected children to help them reach safe, permanent, and loving homes.

Impact Austin's grant was designated for the Transitioning Youth Program, which seeks to provide support to 100% of the cases assigned by the courts for youth ages 14 to 18, who are at risk of leaving foster care without being adopted or having a network of support to prepare them for adulthood. The program utilizes innovative services for youth, specialized training for volunteers, and broader networking with community partners to ensure that these very vulnerable youth will be able to transition to successful and independent adult living. The program also aims to increase the percentage of youth served that are assigned volunteers; have the youth show overall positive improvement in five areas; have more successfully closed cases; and have youth whose cases are closed obtain at least one life document and identify at least one healthy adult.

During the grant period, CASA surpassed and/or met several of its stated goals. With the additional funding, they were able to better structure and expand their Transitioning Youth Team. As a result, the organization surpassed the number of youth served in its first year by 53 youth (23%). Although it fell slightly short of its goal in the second year, reaching 97% of its target, serving 286 youth, this lower rate was attributed to stronger growth in demand for their services rather than a reduction in involvement on CASA's part. In both years, CASA surpassed the objectives of having youth served receive an assigned volunteer as well as having the youth served show an improvement in five areas, with the latter seeing actual figures eight and 14 percentage points higher than their targets. Furthermore, CASA's work during the period contributed to their receiving recognition from two statewide organizations for best practices, an unintended benefit of being able to implement their program with Impact Austin's support.

A STORY FROM CASA: *Evette entered the foster care system at age 12 when her mother abandoned her. An outgoing and bubbly teenager, Evette loves gymnastics, dancing and singing, but her grief and anger were made clear through her behavior. Living with a relative first, Evette ignored the rules of the house and was moved to a foster home where she fought with other children. She was then sent to a Residential Treatment Center and her aggressive behavior got worse. At this point, the judge appointed CASA to her case.*

A top priority for teens is developing healthy, long-term connections with adults. During this difficult time, an aunt who lived in Kansas maintained a positive relationship with Evette. As places for Evette to live dwindled, she travelled to Kansas for a successful weekend stay with her aunt. Upon returning, the judge agreed that if Evette stopped fighting, they would work towards sending her to live with her aunt permanently. Rachel, Evette's CASA volunteer, kept Evette focused on her goal of living with her aunt. They talked about Evette's issues with fighting and how she could build better relationships with her peers. Rachel communicated regularly with Evette's aunt, caseworker and attorney, keeping everyone up to date on developments. With the case now involving Family Protective Services departments in two states, the process was time-consuming and bureaucratic, but Rachel and Evette's attorney persisted in keeping the process moving forward.

Rachel never gave up through behavior issues, moves or the long process of finding a permanent home, and Evette opened up to and trusted her dedicated CASA volunteer. Now 15, Evette lives in Kansas with her aunt. Her fighting has stopped and she is excelling at school. On the phone with Rachel recently, Evette shared what a big relief it was to be with her own family who love her and how life is finally beginning to feel normal again.

BADGERDOG LITERARY PUBLISHING



It's Elementary!

Focus Area.....**Culture**

Grant Amount.....**\$105,000**

Grant Year.....**2010**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2010 – 6/30/2012**

Website.....**www.badgerdog.org**

Badgerdog Literary Publishing's mission was to publish work that furthers our culture's collective vision and to equip at-risk children with the language skills necessary to create literary art from their joy and their jeopardy. As of October 2012 (after the grant period), Badgerdog as it previously existed dissolved due to the slow economy and the shifting of much local and regional education funding to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Badgerdog transferred its education programs to Austin Public Library Friends Foundation (APLFF) so that creative writing workshops for children, youth and senior citizens can continue to serve writers in the Austin area.

Badgerdog sought funds for "It's Elementary!", a program intended to bring the art of creative writing and the joy of seeing their work in print to 4th graders at all eight East Austin elementary schools that feed into Eastside Memorial High School. Badgerdog assigned each school a paid "Writer in Residence" (a published author) to work with each class for 25 weeks, teaching the children to use a wide variety of literary forms such as poetry, playwriting, fiction and creative non-fiction.

During the Impact Austin grant period, Badgerdog served 469 students in 24 classrooms with 25 hours of programming. Additionally, Badgerdog delivered professional development for the language arts teachers within the participating schools. A total of 96% of students had their work published in the Youth Voices in Ink anthology, Rise, which was distributed to students, teachers, principals, school libraries, Austin Public Libraries, and BookPeople. After going through the program, Badgerdog students exhibited increased self-esteem, not just about their writing, but also about their academic experience as a whole. They learned to use their writing to understand their feelings – a lifelong skill that will be sustaining to many of these at-risk children. Additionally, 89% of Badgerdog students showed improvement in their writing skills.

A STORY FROM BADGERDOG: *To Badgerdog instructor Cara Zimmer, one of the fourth-grade students at Zavala Elementary School stood out immediately as a natural writer. Even in the first weeks of workshop, Sofia filled pages of her notebook while other students struggled to get down just a few lines. By all appearances, Sofia had been a voracious storyteller since she first learned to speak, and Cara could clearly see Sofia was on the path to academic success – not only in language arts, but in all of her classes. Sofia was even selected as one of Badgerdog's featured readers at the Texas Book Festival in October. At the culminating site reading at Zavala in May of 2011, Sofia's father stood in the audience to hear his daughter read her work. Afterwards, he approached Cara and thanked her for the work she'd done in Sofia's classroom this year. Before Badgerdog, he said, Sofia had despised writing. She had no interest in it and became anxious during school writing assignments. But once Badgerdog began, Sofia's attitude about writing completely changed. Cara had been witnessing this transformation, without knowing it, since the first day of the workshop. This transformation now carries over into Sofia's home as well. She and her father are writing stories together.*

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF CENTRAL TEXAS



XY-Zone Expansion

Focus Area.....**Education**

Grant Amount.....**\$105,000**

Grant Year.....**2010**

Grant Period.....**9/1/2010 – 8/31/2012**

Website.....**www.cisaustin.org**

Communities In Schools (CIS) of Central Texas is a dropout prevention program that creates a network of volunteers, social services, businesses, and community resources that work together to break down barriers and help students succeed. The XY-Zone is a nationally recognized leadership development and peer support program for high school age males, who are at risk for school dropout. The XY-Zone challenges and empowers young men to aim high, get an education and break the cycle of poverty. Impact Austin's most recent grant funded the expansion of XY-Zone to the Bastrop High School Campus. CIS's XY-Zone program also received the 2005 Impact Austin Education Grant in the amount of \$105,500, which expanded the program to Crockett and Lanier High Schools.

CIS has three main goals for its participants in the XY-Zone program, which are to show academic improvement; reduce or desist from risk taking; and demonstrate an increase in developmental assets. Thanks to Impact Austin's grant, CIS was able to serve over 55 young men in Bastrop, 46 of whom were actively engaged throughout the 2011/2012 academic year. CIS provided over 4,000 hours of individual and group services to these participants, which led to the 13 participating seniors all graduating and 97% of the remaining participants graduating to the next grade. During the year, the young men honed their presentation and leadership skills by delivering community presentations, which also raised awareness for the program in Bastrop. Additionally, participants in the XY-Zone were involved in planning and organizing annual events with the Bastrop Downtown Business Alliance, which further raised awareness of the program as well as allowed the program participants to see the value of helping others.

During the 2011/2012 academic year, the Bastrop community struggled to recover from the wildfires that consumed the region. In the wake of this tragedy, CIS was able to provide individual counseling and emergency support to participants and their families.

A STORY FROM CIS: *Every year members of the XY-Zone have a chance to turn their lives around and improve in all areas as well as dedicate themselves to a program that will help them reach their goals. By doing so, they have an opportunity to reach the highest honor in the XY-Zone known as "Blue Shirt." Becoming a Blue Shirt means that the student is truly living by the five R's that the XY-Zone is built on: Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, Role Model, and Reaching out. In April, the XY-Zone program celebrated and honored newly-inducted Blue Shirt members from the ambassador group. The "Blue Shirt," the highest honor in the XY-Zone, is given with the expectation that each member will become an Ambassador to the XY-Zone program for life. This year 16 young men were inducted into the Blue Shirt Circle of Honor during a weekend campout that included low ROPES team building activities, and a "Rites of Passage" fire ceremony at Pace Bend Park. This school year the Bastrop XY-Zone had two young men, Mitchell and Peter, reach that honor.*

AUSTIN CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER



Children's Mental Health Expansion Initiative

Focus Area.....**Health & Wellness**

Grant Amount.....**\$108,400**

Grant Year.....**2011**

Grant Period.....**9/1/2009 – 8/31/2012**

Website.....**www.austinchildguidance.org**

Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) offers mental health treatment for children through early intervention, diagnosis and treatment. Their team of psychiatrists, psychologists, and therapists provides individual, group and family therapy as well as psychiatric and psychological examinations. Issues treated include AD&HD; Conduct Disorder; school phobia/ truancy; depression; Pervasive Development Disorder; suicidal ideation; juvenile crime; and risk-taking behaviors.

The Impact Austin grant was used for the Children's Mental Health Expansion Initiative, a project designed to enable ACGC to hire two new therapists to provide individual, family and group therapy, parenting classes and psychological assessments for Central Texas children. In addition, ACGC expected the therapists to complete a process to qualify for reimbursement for their services from private insurance companies and government agencies, making this one-time investment self-sustaining.

During the grant period, ACGC was able to hire three therapists (vs. the estimated two). The therapists have completed the paneling process necessary for insurance reimbursement, providing ACGC the ability to generate program income to support the additional salaries and related expenses into the future. During the funding period, 152 new children and 181 family members were provided with individual, family, or group therapy services. This total, 333, falls short of the 410 ACGC projected due to the fact that more clients served required longer-term treatments, which prevented enrollment of new clients. Also, ACGC experienced unexpected external factors, such as closing the center for repairs and renovations. Although the output was lower than expected, ACGC was able to increase their long-term capacity by 104 children and 130 family members above their proposal. In total, Impact Austin funding has permanently increased ACGC's annual capacity by 286 children and 358 family members.

A STORY FROM ACGC: *Parents of five-year-old Lacey brought her to ACGC because they were having discipline and behavioral problems with Lacey at home. Lacey's school suggested that counseling might help Lacey because she was having problems with peers and following school rules. When Lacey met her therapist at ACGC, she told her that she wanted help making friends. The parents wanted guidance on how to parent Lacey – what seemed to work for Lacey's sister didn't work for Lacey. Their therapist provided individual and family counseling directed at improving Lacey's social skills and creating a parenting plan that worked for Lacey, Mom, and Dad. A diagnosis of ADHD and Anxiety provided the parents with information on what was going on with Lacey. The therapist collaborated with Lacey's teacher to help her improve the behavior problems at school. Each week, the parents reported Lacey was getting better and better. She had some of her first successful play dates with friends and her parents recognized that their relationship with Lacey had improved. Upon termination, the parents noted that Lacey could more easily connect with other children, deal with transition, and she was more agreeable at home.*

TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT



Emergency Protective Order Project

Focus Area.....**Family**

Grant Amount.....**\$108,400**

Grant Year.....**2011**

Grant Period.....**7/1/2011 – 12/31/2012**

Website.....**www.texasadvocacyproject.org**

Texas Advocacy Project is a statewide, nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence and is committed to ending violence in the home, because no child should ever have to watch one parent abuse the other. Impact Austin's grant funded the Emergency Protective Order Program, which provides victims of domestic violence with access to legal advice and assistance in obtaining protective orders during the critical period immediately after an abuser's arrest and during the following weeks as they make their transition to permanent safety.

Texas Advocacy Project outlined two primary goals for this program, which were to provide the abovementioned services to 225 victims and their children each month (for a total of 4,050 victims) and to share best practices through training programs in Williamson, Hays, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties. Both of these goals were realized, with Texas Advocacy Project surpassing the former goal by 17%, assisting 4,746 victims and their children during the grant period. Additionally, Texas Advocacy Project was able to enhance their communication to victims by sending written advice to victims that requested it and had a safe address to which it could be mailed. With respect to the second goal, Texas Advocacy Project delivered training entitled "Best Practices in Serving Victims of Family Violence through Emergency Protective Orders" in the five targeted counties, with attendance from law enforcement members, prosecutors, victim services personnel, and social service providers.

The Impact Austin grant was particularly valuable to Texas Advocacy Project, as it was able to help thousands of women and children break the cycle of violence during the eighteen-month period without being threatened by the loss of federal funding that many of the participants on the Travis County Family Violence Protection Team experienced. Texas Advocacy Project is dedicated to continuing these services by strengthening the partnerships created during the grant period and fostering pre-existing ones.

A STORY FROM TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT: "Katherine" and "Vance" were in a dating relationship and biological parents of the same child. One evening Vance started an argument with Katherine, which quickly turned violent. Although their child was sleeping just feet away on their bed, Vance leaned to Katherine and whispered, "I am going to kill you," and then said, "Take the kid out of here. I am going to tie you up and kill you." Katherine feared for her life and could not move.

The couple's daughter woke up from the commotion. Vance acted calm for the child and took the child to another bedroom. When Vance left the room, Katherine was able to escape outside through the window and contact the police. Police responded, and Vance was arrested on a charge of assault with injury family violence, a third degree felony, and interference with an emergency telephone call, a misdemeanor charge. Katherine requested an Emergency Protective Order. The Project's attorney immediately contacted Katherine to confirm she wanted the Emergency Protective Order and to explain that she could include her daughter on the order. Because Vance was charged with a felony, the Emergency Protective Order could last for anywhere from sixty-one to ninety-one days. We also referred her to the Travis County Attorney's office for assistance in prosecuting the case against Vance. The Project encouraged Katherine to contact the Austin Police Department's Victim Services for assistance with applying for Crime Victim's Compensation, to help cover any medical expenses or relocation expenses related to the assault. We gave Katherine information on the Texas VINE service so that she could sign up to receive notifications when Vance gets released from custody. We also provided Katherine with the number for the Project's Family Violence Legal Line and let her know that she can get free and confidential legal advice about her family law matters when she is ready to get child custody and child support orders in place.