



## NEWS



Lisa Apfelberg Acting  
Executive Director

Impact Austin Members and Friends,

Impact Austin's 15th year is kicking off in an exciting way with our upcoming "Gritty Women" event on September 6th. Reaching a milestone like this is something to celebrate. It allows us to look back on all that we have achieved TOGETHER in the past fifteen years and provides us with an opportunity to look ahead and dream big as we plan all that we can do together in the fifteen years to come.

As we put this newsletter together, it gave us a chance to look at ourselves *by the numbers* to see our financial impact and it's impressive. By combining our resources, we have catapulted ourselves to being female philanthropists who have invested OVER six million dollars into our community. We looked at other women's collective giving funds and know that this is really something to be proud of. Beyond that, we know that the work our grants have enabled our nonprofit Community Partners to do has improved our community and helped to make their clients' lives better. There is still work to be done in Central Texas and we are here to be partners with the change-making organizations who do this work so well.

We have always been happy about having a 75 percent member renewal rate. This is significantly higher than most membership organizations enjoy. In honor of this 15th anniversary edition, we did some counting and were so excited to see that so many of our members are celebrating their 5, 10, and 15 year anniversaries as Impact Austin members. Thank you for combining your resources - time, financial, and smarts - with ours and helping us to make the impact that we do!

Perhaps you have been a member in the past and are thinking about rejoining or maybe you've been watching Impact Austin's work in the community and this is your year to join us. We'd love to welcome you. Please reach out to [me!](#)

With gratitude,

Lisa Apfelberg, MSW

---

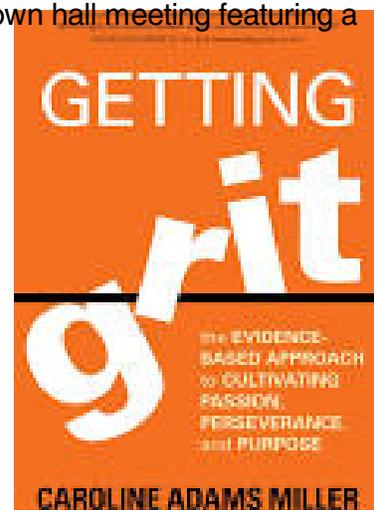
### Impact Austin to "Get Gritty" at Special Anniversary Event September 6

Motivational Speaker and Author Caroline Miller to Keynote Membership Gathering

Impact Austin will officially kick off its 15th year with a special town hall meeting featuring a keynote by Caroline Miller, author of *Getting Grit: The Evidence-Based Approach to Cultivating Passion, Perseverance and Purpose*. Miller will speak to the theme "Gritty Women."

Formal presentations will be held from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 6, 2017, at the Alamo Drafthouse, 1120 S. Lamar Blvd. A pre-event happy hour is scheduled from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sponsorships are available and seating is limited!

For more details and to order tickets click [here](#).



---

## Impact Austin Annual Meeting Closes the 2017 Giving Year with Over \$400,000 in Grants

### 2017 Grants Bring Impact Austin Lifetime Giving Total to Over \$6 Million



Five Austin area non-profits were each awarded a grant of \$80,600 at the Impact Austin Annual Meeting held June 6. The 2017 recipients include The SAFE Alliance, The Contemporary Austin, Any Baby Can, Interfaith Action of Central Texas, and Seedling Foundation.

Recipients were chosen through our months-long Impact Austin grant review process from a field of more than 100 applicants and were publicly recognized in a ceremony at City Hall on June 14. Read more about the winners and see pictures of the check presentation by clicking [here](#).

---

## Impact Austin Reveals its Anniversary Look

### Notice something new?

July 1 marked the start of Impact Austin's 15th year, and to highlight the milestone we have spiffed up our look. In celebration, our familiar logo is embellished with a special 15th Anniversary banner. We'll use it all year as a reminder of our achievements so far, and the accomplishments yet to come as we look to support our community partners better than ever!



---

## Impact Austin Marks 15th Year by Reflecting, Raising Goals, Renewing Commitment to Serve

### Looking Back: A Ringleader, Five Friends and an Amazing Idea

Even if you know the history of Impact Austin, the story is a great reminder that proper application of grit and determination creates results. And whether it's old or new to you, you may find extra inspiration in the story.

In 2003, Rebecca Powers became intrigued by the effectiveness of a Cincinnati group's collective giving program. She initially recruited five friends to join forces with her, launching a similar effort to pool their giving dollars to make a greater impact in Austin. Known as the Kitchen Table Six, these founding members recruited over 100 more women that first year to join with them in the group they named Impact Austin. The first grant was awarded to a Workforce Education project of LifeWorks in the amount of \$126,000. Over the nearly fifteen years since making that first gift, Impact Austin has supported dozens of area nonprofits with millions of dollars in grants. And we are going strong.

15 Years  
73 Grants Given  
\$6,019,100 Awarded

## Up Next for Impact Austin: Higher Goals, Enriched Member Experience

Dissatisfaction with the status quo has always fueled Impact Austin. After all, seeing an unmet need in our community was what sparked the idea for Impact Austin in the first place. We're using this important milestone year to recommit and raise the bar for the organization overall. And we can't wait to get started.

Among the key initiatives that Impact Austin will be working on this year are:

1. Increasing our support to community partners by growing our membership, while keeping members' investment levels steady;
2. Creating more opportunities for members to participate in Impact Austin in the way they wish....from simply writing a check to serving in a leadership role, and many other options throughout the year;
3. Enhancing communications so each member is very aware about what is happening within the organization; what decisions are being made at the executive level; and providing more ways for members to provide input and be heard.

In the next few months, Impact Austin will roll out the calendar for coffee meetings where your friends can learn more about Impact Austin from leadership and community partners and everyone is invited. In September, the member and friends events officially kick into gear with a special speaker event and town hall meeting. Stay tuned for more, check our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) often and expect announcements in your email.

---

## Spotlight on Member Judi McCarthy

### Class of 2016 Member Shares Her Perspective

I came to Impact Austin in a roundabout way. I was new to Austin, anxious to be of service, and ready to apply my experience to help a nonprofit. The next day, I found Impact Austin's website and the group's Facebook page. I joined within a month. That was 2016.

Women's collective giving was not a new concept for me. I had led the effort to create a women's fund in Bakersfield, California in 2005. While very different operationally, that Women's and Girls' Fund shares many good practices with Impact Austin: a rigorous grant making program; member involvement in grant decisions; girls engaged and learning about philanthropy. Most importantly, both groups espouse the value of collective giving. From my veteran philanthropist's perspective, Impact Austin was impressive from the start.



Judi  
McCarthy

Like many of you, I've become passionate about women's philanthropy. I'm thrilled to put my experience to work for Impact Austin as we celebrate the 15th anniversary. Even more, I'm excited to contemplate what we can do together in the next 15 years. In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

For more from Judi, click [here](#).

---

## Community Partner Update - LifeWorks

### First Impact Austin Grant Recipient Fights Youth Homelessness, Unemployment and Trauma



In 2004, Impact Austin awarded its first grant to LifeWorks to support the organization's workforce education project. The program helped participants learn about business hands-on by operating a Ben and Jerry's "PartnerShop" ice cream shop, which was sponsored by LifeWorks and located at the corner 5th and Lamar downtown.

Plenty has changed since then. The site of that simple ice cream shop now hosts the likes of Whole Foods and West Elm. The needs of Austin's youth have grown exponentially. And today, LifeWorks is more respected than ever as a relentless advocate for Austin's youth and young adults--especially those facing complex challenges including homelessness, abuse and trauma. LifeWorks now serves over 6000 individuals each year with an operating budget of \$11M, a staff of 140 and seven service locations.



Impact Austin has continued to support LifeWorks since that initial grant in 2004. In 2008, our youth initiative, Girls Giving Grants, awarded their grant to LifeWorks. Additionally, in 2013, the organization awarded another grant to LifeWorks--again for workforce development--and in 2016 presented LifeWorks the Catalyst Grant to address a critical funding need for mental health services. Read more about LifeWorks, its goals, and the incredible work [here](#).

---

## Did you Know?

### 2003 and the First Six



Impact Austin Founding Members - AKA the Kitchen Table Six - Included (from left) Nancy Word, Cindy Moreland, Jane Nolden, Rebecca Powers (founder), Phylis Donelson, and Glenda Holmstrom.

## 2017 Membership Anniversaries

15 Year Members = 23  
10 Year Members = 21  
5 Year Members = 25

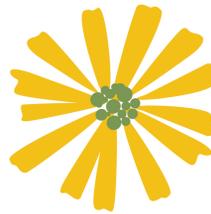
Thank you for being a part of all that we do together!

---

### We're Listening

We'd love to hear from you....what do you want to learn more about? What type of information is useful for you? Contact us at [contact@impactaustin.org](mailto:contact@impactaustin.org).

---



JOIN TODAY

