

Girls giving grants

Students participate in philanthropic organizations

Fifty-five young women gathering together two Sundays a month sounds like trouble, but for the girls in Girls Giving Grants it couldn't be for a less mischievous, more noble cause. The g3 program is the brainchild of Rebecca Powers, president of Impact Austin, a group of adult women who work philanthropically to benefit various organizations. Girls Giving Grants is her way of giving the same experience to her daughters and other teenage girls.

"We decided we would focus on the needs of youth in our county areas," sophomore Oriana Wright said. "Most importantly we decided membership would be limited to middle and high school girls."

Each girl donates \$100, preferably earned by her, to commit to the grant that g3 gives every year. Every penny goes to the potential grant of one of the non-profit organizations that has gone through the extensive application process.

"The grant process is easy to follow and understand," said Debbie Tate, director of Development and Community Affairs for The Center of Child Protection. "I think a rigorous grant process lends to the credibility of the organization."

Through the course of six months, the members put their skills to the test. The 55 girls are split into six groups. Each group gets a section of the grants which are narrowed down to two, they then present the grants in slide shows. The girls vote on their favorites and in April, they announce the winner and present the organization with its grant.

"Most of the members have experienced heartbreak," Oriana said. "Due to the nature of the process, the grant application I have fallen in love with is not always the recipient."

With the help of many mentors, the girls were able to set up g3 and keep it running for four years now.

In 2007, g3 awarded \$2,600 to the Center for Child Protection, putting the money towards an emergency fund for families in crisis. The grant ended up aiding the emotional needs of the abused child and their family.

Coming into the fourth year as an organization, g3 has already proved itself to the Austin community, with their contributions to Lifeworks in 2008, Center for Child Protection in 2007 and Austin Children Shelter in 2006.

"The need for philanthropy and the hunger for young philanthropists is more now than it ever has been," director of g3 Dinna Mavridis said. "This new generation as a populace is seen as lazy. The groups of girls in g3 are not even close to lazy."

The g3 girls have given \$10,400 to the city of Austin over the course of four years. They have worked hard to grow into the organization they are now.

"I was not aware that being a part of a single group would be able to change me as much as it has," Oriana said.

Not only is g3 a learning process in finance for the girls involved, it is also a place to grow; many of the girls have been there since the group began, and they all have strong ties to one another.

"It helps with their communication skills, financial stability and makes the girls commit because of each other," Mavridis said.

This year 55 grants were submitted and are in the process of elimination. The g3 grant will be awarded in April of this year.

—Kelsey Randle

'Hy' hopes for Hyline

Dance team prepares for, competes in spring contests

Every Friday night during football season, fans enjoy the halftime show just as much as the game. The line of 45 girls high-kicking their toes to their noses is flawless and well-rehearsed. However, the minute football season is over, Hyline leaps right into preparing for competitions.

"When football season ends, many people think Hyline ends too, which is so not true," Hyline officer junior Mallory Douthit said. "I can't tell you how many times I've been asked, 'So what do y'all even do in Hyline now?' Our focus just shifts from halftime shows and high kicks to competition dances."

To prepare for competition season, the girls add over 10 more

hours of practice to their weekly schedule, including lengthy Saturday rehearsals.

"It's time consuming, to say the least, and waking up at 5:30 is just as awful as it sounds," Mallory said. "But it's well worth it."

The team performs four dances: jazz, modern, pom and lyrical. The Funky Company—which has held the State title for the last two years—and the Jazz Company also compete, along with optional soloists.

"Everyone hopes to receive high scores this year but personally, I would like to see Funky Co. win for a third year," Hyline officer senior Sara Brown said. "Also, I would like Hyline to excel in our modern dance since it's only the

second time we are competing in that category."

Hyline competes in four solo and three team competitions, including The Klein Oak competition in Houston, where the girls bond by spending the entire weekend together. The team's first contest was Feb. 7 at Bowie High School. Hyline is also anticipating their annual performance, Zenith, on April 23-25 in the newly-renovated FAF.

"Each season is unique but contest season always seems to bring the team closer together," Sara said. "Everyone works so hard to achieve a common goal and be the best."

—Katy Roden and Katie Sorenson



Barrett Wilson

Performing during a basketball game, second lieutenant junior Shaila Isham dances to prepare for upcoming competitions. Hyline's first competition was Feb. 7 where Funky and Jazz Co. tied for runner up and officers got second overall.