



For Immediate Release

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IMPACT AUSTIN GRANTS HALF A MILLION DOLLARS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

Grant awards now exceed over \$4.6 million to area nonprofits

(AUSTIN, TX. – June 19, 2014) – Impact Austin, a local collective-giving and women’s philanthropic organization, announced their five new Community Partners for 2014 who will each receive a \$100,000 grant on Tuesday, June 24th. Recipients of the 2014 grants are: Anthropos Arts, Ann Richards School Foundation, Austin Youth River Watch, CASA of Travis County, and Samaritan Center. Award presentations will be held from 9 am until 2 pm on Tuesday, June 24th as [Impact Austin](#) stops at each nonprofit to meet board members, employees and friends of each organization. This will be the 11th year for Impact Austin to make this kind of financial contribution to the Austin community, donating over \$4,600,000 since their inception.

Every year Impact Austin is committed to partnering with five area nonprofits by awarding grants for new or expanded programs. Impact Austin accepts proposals from organizations for five focus areas: culture, education, environment, family, and health and wellness. Member committees review and evaluate grant applications, conduct site visits, and select finalists for consideration by the general membership. A total of ten finalists, two for each focus area, are presented to the Impact Austin membership at the annual meeting in June for a final vote to select the five grant recipients.

“We could not be more proud of our new Community Partners and the terrific programs they are going to put into place with these \$100,000 grants. With the generous support of our members, Impact Austin has now contributed over \$4.6 million back into the Austin community since we started this organization,” said Impact Austin Interim Executive Director Donna Benson-Chan. “It’s a wonderful time for us and our new Community Partners as they put these funds to great use.”

Impact Austin members are women seeking to transform lives in the Austin area through philanthropy. Each member contributes \$1,250 each year, which is then combined with the donations of the other members to create the grant fund. “We could not do this without the outstanding women who join our organization. They recognize the power of collective-giving and how their donations can help make a difference in the community,” stated Benson-Chan.

Grant presentations will be made to each group on Tuesday, June 24th. Media are invited to attend any of the presentations on the 24th, starting at 9 am and finishing that afternoon. For interviews with the 2014 Community Partners, or an Impact Austin Grants representative, contact Michele Golden, Golden & Co., at 713-252-4646 c, or michele@goldenandco.com.

The five recipients and a description of each is listed below. The times and locations of each award presentation also appear on the Impact Austin website, www.impact-austin.org.

Impact Austin's New 2014 Community Partners:

Education:

Ann Richards School Foundation: Ann Richards School MakerSpace

Ann Richards School (ARS) is an all-girls public school serving grades 6 through 12 with 75% of the students from Title One (low income feeder schools) and 25% of the students from other Austin Independent School District (AISD) schools. The school's MakerSpace project funded by the Impact Austin grant is a cutting-edge hands-on, project-based center, the collaborative effort of the Ann Richards Foundation, AISD, and the Austin high tech industry. The ARS MakerSpace will positively impact both the students and the south Austin community by providing a tinkering space to transform projects from concept to creation and allow students to deepen their understanding of STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology skills concepts). The next generation of great inventors will benefit from the opportunity to expand their knowledge in a designated space to tinker, invent, and develop skills necessary for success in the 21st century work environment.

Health and Wellness:

Samaritan Center: Integrated Health Care for a Healthier Community

The Samaritan Center's mission is to provide professional counseling, integrative medicine, and community education to prevent and treat abuse, teach healthy life skills, and strengthen families. The Integrated Health Care for a Healthier Community Project funded by Impact Austin's grant will address the problem of a fragmented health care system by providing telepsychiatric services and by providing a full time case manager. The telepsychiatric care will provide access to time-sensitive psychiatric assessments, medication adjustments and prescription assistance that is currently not available for 208 adults and children. The case manager will help clients access other needed services in the community as well as improve communication and coordination of care among the treating professionals and clients.

Environment:

Austin Youth River Watch: River Watchers Restoring Austin Streams

Austin Youth River Watch combines environmental education with drop-out prevention, providing a safe place for teenagers to grow and gain confidence while learning to be active stewards of our planet. In the current program, approximately 120 at-risk students from nine Austin Independent School District high schools learn to collect, analyze, and publish water-quality data from 25 freshwater sites along Austin-area streams and the Colorado River. The new program funded by Impact Austin will engage these students in hands-on stream restoration projects, such as bank stabilization, vegetation management, and trail building. These week-long service-learning projects will include a weekend "work day" with community volunteers led by the students. The new program will benefit Austin-area streams and the ecosystems they support through at least 10 restoration projects each year, enhance students' knowledge of aquatic science and improve their leadership skills, and involve at least 100 new community volunteers.

Culture:

Anthropos Arts: Teaching More, Reaching More

Anthropos Arts connects low-income youth with Austin's best musicians for free music lessons, mentoring, workshops, and performance opportunities in some of Austin's best known venues. The Teaching More, Reaching More project funded by Impact Austin's grant will expand and deepen the impact by increasing the number of students served from 110 to 150 and by doubling the number of lessons for every student. Through this project, the students will have individual music lessons with a professional musician, attend workshops with Grammy-winning artists, and perform for audiences at places like Stubb's, Austin Music Hall, SXSW, and more. Anthropos Art's musician instructors provide mentoring, teach life skills, serve as inspirational role models, and assist the students in obtaining scholarships to college

Family:

CASA of Travis County: Trauma-Informed Care in the Foster Care System

CASA of Travis County promotes and protects the best interests of abused and neglected children by training volunteers to advocate for them in courts, schools, and the community. CASA helps these children find safe, permanent, loving homes. CASA will use their Impact Austin grant for a new project, "Trauma-Informed Care in the Foster Care System" intended to improve and standardize the level of skills for providers through a collaborative training system developed at Texas Christian University. The overarching goal of this collaboration is to help foster youth heal more quickly from the trauma of abuse and neglect by surrounding them with volunteers and child care professionals trained in the principles of Trust-Based Relational Intervention. The main principles of this approach focus on identifying, understanding, and responding to the child's needs rather than their behavior and this project will provide necessary training to volunteers and community partners.

About Impact Austin:

Impact Austin is a 501(c)(3) public charity made up of women seeking to transform lives in the Austin area through high-impact and lifelong giving. The only membership requirements are to be female and donate \$1,250 each year. Impact Austin combines the annual donations from members and gives large grants each year to local worthy causes selected by the members. Grant applications are accepted in each of the following focus areas: culture, environment, education, family, and health and wellness.

www.impact-austin.org.

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