



NEWS

For Extraordinary Members

Interim Executive Director Message



Donna Benson-Chan Interim Executive Director

Dear Members,

When Impact Austin first began, we knew if we combined our dollars, our energy and our hearts, we could matter. Through high-impact grant making, we would inspire women to effect positive change and we did! With all of our good work, we have built a stellar reputation not only in Austin, but across the United States as leaders in women's philanthropy.

We are proud of our philanthropic organization of 10 years that has grown into a large, diverse group of powerful philanthropists whose charitable giving makes a significant impact. We are entering another decade now and operating at a level where we need to look closely at building our capacity to implement key organizational functions. There is a need to support our organization and our members with the staffing, operational structure, technology and all the stuff required to run our

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Grants Update

30 Nonprofits Invited to Submit Grant Applications

Our 130 hardworking Focus Area Committee (FAC) members have been busy the past 3 weeks reading, researching and analyzing the 114 Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) received by Impact Austin this year. After much discussion and careful consideration, we have invited 30 organizations to submit full grant applications (see list by committee below). Grant applications are due on February 21st and the FACs will be back to work reviewing those the last week of February.



The Famiy FAC chose six organizations to submit full grant applications.

organization as a business.

Beginning to build the capacity of Impact Austin was foremost in our thoughts as we began to work on our strategic plan for 2014-2016. When we stepped through the doors into our planning retreat, we knew we would be discussing how we would continue advancing our mission, administering high impact grant making, and exploring new ways to finance day-to-day operations. As our planning began, there was one word that continued to echo throughout each and every work group and that was "sustainability".

There was a good cross section of members who teamed up to do this important work and to them sustainability meant we needed to explore new and innovative ways to continue doing extraordinary work in our community and ensuring a vibrant future for our members.

Our strategic plan, "Stepping Up to Meet Our Future" maps out our next big steps. We look forward to sharing this information with all members and ask that everyone join us on Monday, February 10th ([register](#)) from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Austin ([map](#)) to learn more about our plans as we step up to meet our future.

2014-2016 Strategic Plan Documents:
[Strategic Plan FAQs](#)
[Strategic Plan 2014-2016](#)

Thank you for your leadership in the Central Texas community and your ongoing commitment to Impact Austin.

Donna Benson-Chan

Mark Your Calendar

Membership Meeting: Stepping Up to Meet

Our Future

Monday, February 10th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

4700 Grover Ave

Austin, TX 78756 ([map](#))

[register](#)

Annual Meeting

Monday, June 16

6:00 p.m.

ZACH Theatre

202 South Lamar

Austin, TX 78704 ([map](#))

Culture:

- Anthropos Arts
- Austin Classical Guitar
- Austin Playhouse
- Hispanic Alliance for the Performing Arts
- Long Center for the Performing Arts
- Mexic-Arte Museum

Education:

- Ann Richards School Foundation
- Austin Partners in Education
- Breakthrough Austin
- Camp Fire Balcones
- East Austin College Prep Academy
- Marbridge Foundation

Environment:

- Austin Habitat for Humanity
- Austin Youth River Watch
- Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems
- National Wildlife Federation
- Texas Humane Heroes
- Westcave Preserve

Family:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas, Inc.
- Capital IDEA
- CASA of Travis County
- Helping Hand Home for Children
- Seedling Foundation
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Diocesan Council of Austin

Health & Wellness:

- Center for Child Protection
- H.A.N.D.
- Samaritan Center
- Sustainable Food Center
- WeViva
- Yellow Bike Project

Impact Through Involvement Board of Directors Nomination Process

Interested in Serving on the Impact Austin Board of Directors?

Do you like working with bright, engaged women? Do you have skills that you would love to use for Impact Austin's benefit, for instance, nonprofit board experience, fundraising, financial, marketing/communication/public relations, technology or other areas of expertise?

We want to hear from you or someone you know.

You may nominate yourself or someone else (but please seek her permission first). Each year the Impact Austin Board of Directors seeks to add strong members with complementary skills and background to the Board. If openings

Each One Bring One Raffle

Congratulations to member Stefanie Cavanaugh, the winner of our Each One Bring One raffle for referring a new member to Impact Austin for the 2014 grant year. Stefanie won five hours of personal organizing with [Jeff Mallon](#), a \$250 value. Thanks so much to Stefanie, and to each and every one of you who helped us reach our 500 member goal!

Website Redesign Update

Impact Austin is embarking on a Website Redesign in order to create a more dynamic, user-friendly site that better represents our organization. We are nearing the process of requesting proposals from providers. If you know of a design agency you would like us to consider during this process, or if you want to be involved or learn more, please contact [Laura Green](#) by February 20th.

Connect with Us

We invite you to visit us online at www.impact-austin.org and connect with Impact Austin's social media community. This is a great way to keep in touch with other Impact Austin members and stay up-to-date on our current events. Please join us on:

Find us on Facebook 

View our profile on **Linked** 

View our videos on **You** 

Sign up to [volunteer](#)

[Read our blog](#)

Our Mission

We're a progressive leader in women's philanthropy, bringing new resources to the community and making philanthropy accessible. Through high-impact grant making, we engage, develop and inspire women to effect positive change.

Our Vision

Our vision is that our women are inspirational role models reaching

do not fit your skills this year, please consider applying again.

Nominations are due no later than March 15, 2014. The Governance Committee will request a full application from selected nominees based on these initial submissions. Interviews will be scheduled in April and finalist nominees will be elected at the May Board of Directors' meeting. We will introduce the new members to the general membership at the Annual Meeting in June.

Click on the links below to find the following forms:

- [Nomination process, including FAQs](#)
- [Nomination Form](#)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Impact Austin Board of Directors

Community Partner Spotlight

Article Provided by Partnerships for Children

After a national campaign to raise awareness about the devastating statistics for kids that age out of foster care, [Partnerships for Children](#) was approached by caseworkers that work with these youth. They brought to light the critical need for mentors for the kids, ages 16 - 18, who are in the foster care system. After months of research, the YES Mentoring Program was born.

In 2012, Impact Austin's generous grant allowed us to launch this Program with a 6-month Financial Literacy class. During each 6 month "cycle", the youth get the opportunity to work one on one with Mentors allowing a natural relationship to grow. We have successfully facilitated four cycles, each with 12 - 14 youth participants. We include a financial stipend for youth that complete the course and take them to the bank to open their own savings account. For most, this is their first experience in a bank. 95% of our youth have sustained their savings accounts.

We have successfully matched 90% of our youth with a Mentor. These relationships vary from weekly phone calls to fun activities at Zach Scott. One youth recently said, "I think the most beneficial part is just knowing that someone cares." The youth gain a sense of self-worth when they recognize that a caring adult is willing to invest time and energy with them.

Once our youth "graduate" from our Financial Literacy class, they have the opportunity to participate in Advanced Classes on varying topics such as "Eating Healthy on a Limited Budget". They can also apply for a 3-month paid internship with Partnerships for Children. They work with their mentor to create a resume and prepare for the interview. It is exciting to see our interns move on to jobs in their field of interest. For example, Quiana finished her internship with us in December. She recently started a part-time job with Side by Side Kids in their after school program. Her goal is to one day be a teacher.

their full giving potential for a better quality of life in our community. We will ensure our long-term sustainability by tapping into the talents of our members and building Impact Austin from the "inside out."

Our Values

Transparency - We are an open book.

Excellence - We are thorough, professional and go above and beyond.

Inclusiveness - We are open to all women.

Democracy - Each member has an equal voice.

Integrity - We are honest and ethical.

Respect - We consider the impact of our words and actions on others.

Accountability - We say what we're going to do and we do it.

Innovation - We are creative, but prudent, risktakers.

Continuous Improvement - Through feedback and other input, we are always improving.



A graduate of the YES Financial Program and a happy mentor.

To learn more about our YES Mentoring Program please visit www.partnershipsforchildren.org. We cannot thank you enough for sharing in our dream to give these youth hope and guidance.

The Alarming Statistics

- 60% of youth who leave the foster care system at the age of 18 will be homeless, go to jail or die within a year of leaving.
- 80% of our current prison population was once in foster care
- Girls who age out of foster care are 600% more likely to become pregnant by the age 21.



Mentor relationships vary from weekly phone calls to fun all around activities.

Discovery Day Recap & Presentations

The 8th annual Discovery Day was held at the [Region 13 Service Center](#) on January 4th and proved to be one of Impact Austin's signature events. This day serves as a reminder to all of us that we are a thoughtful, learning organization. We learned from community leaders to enhance our knowledge of

the critical issues impacting Central Texas. Attending were Impact Austin members and guests of members interested in joining. When the day concluded many new members stayed for the fun and informative Member Orientation lunch.

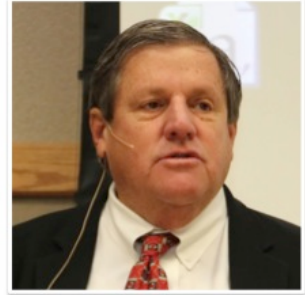
Rich Froeschle,
Demographics Speaker



Bonnie Reese,
Culture Speaker



Bill Hammond,
Education Speaker



Vanessa Sarria,
Family Speaker



Melinda Taylor,
Environment Speaker



Pam LeBlanc,
Health & Wellness Speaker



Here are the links to many of the presentations given at Discovery Day:

- Rich Froeschle, Director, Labor Market and Career Information, TX Workforce Commission

Presentation: [Aligning Education and the Texas Economy](#)

- Vanessa Sarria, Executive Director, Community Action Network

Presentation: [Supporting Families in a Changing Community](#)

- Melinda Taylor, Senior Lecturer & Executive Director, Center for Global

Energy, International Arbitration and Environmental Law, University of Texas

Presentation: [Water and Wildlife in Central Texas](#)



After Discovery Day, many new members attended an information session over lunch.

FY14 Update

Announcing the FY14 Committee Cabinet

Impact Austin is pleased to announce the 2014 Committee Cabinet. These women lead the committees, which include many other key volunteers, that perform the day-to-day work to ensure Impact Austin meets its annual goals.

Mary McGovern, *Executive Administrator*

Valerie Kirk, *Executive Financial Administrator*

Suzy Rowley, *Fund Development Chair*

Connie Lawyer, *Grants Chair*

Laura Green, *Marketing Chair*

Melynda Caudle, *Membership Development Chair*

Val Colbourn, *Philanthropy Education Chair*

Betsy Blair, *Volunteer Management Co-Chair*

Melissa Gray, *Volunteer Management Co-Chair*

Dina Mavridis, *Girls Giving Grants Chair*



Committee Cabinet members, joined by board President Lorene Phillips and Interim Executive Director, Donna Benson-Chan.

Girls Giving Grants

G3 Grants Update

After reviewing 34 grant applications, G3 members selected six semifinalists:

Wonders and Worries - staffing for bilingual services for the youth grief support phone line, materials and coordinator

Creative Action - scholarships for 21 at-risk youth to attend 6 weeks of summer camp

Council on At-Risk Youth - PeaceRox Aggression Replacement Training
Program expansion for 10 more middle school girls

The Bernardo Kohler Center - Praxis Academy - high school education for
immigrants being held at immigration detention centers solely because of their
lack of immigration status

Foster Angels of Central Texas Foundation - Beds, cribs and mattresses for
24 foster kids

Helping Hand Home for Children - new clothing and shoes for the kids'
closet for kids in foster care system

Next the girls will prepare, present and vote who will be their two finalists, with
site visits to be held in April.



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