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NEWS

For Extraordinary Members



From Our Founder



As I start to spend more time outside the warm cocoon of Impact Austin, I find myself feeling so proud of what we've created. Thanks to all of you for carrying the mantle forward as we step into the next chapter of our growth and development. I can't wait to see what happens, but I know it will be good because we have such great women on our team--you!

Life is not slowing down for me...it's just going in a different direction. My experience leading Impact Austin has given me new opportunities that will build on what I know and give me more chances to continue learning. Here's a sampling:

I just spent three weeks helping Lesley Ray, an Australian who lives in Brisbane, with logistics as she visited

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Grants Update

28 Non-profits Invited to Submit Grant Applications

Our hardworking FAC members have been busy the past 3 weeks reading, researching and analyzing the 93 Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) that Impact Austin received this year. After much discussion and careful consideration, we have invited 28 organizations to submit full grant applications (see list by committee below). Grant applications are due on Feb 21st and the Focus Area Committees will be back to work reviewing those the first week of March.

our city and conducted research on Impact Austin. She interviewed 10 members and 10 Community Partners. She and I have been communicating about this and making plans since August. Does that make us an 'international' organization now, since we'll be known in Australia?! Lesley made friends wherever she went in Austin...even at the Broken Spoke where 'James' taught her the Texas Two Step...she is very proud! She is doing a case study of Impact Austin's relationships with its Community Partners as her master's thesis. We caught her eye a couple of years ago, and she has been following our progress. Lesley learned to love the Green Bay Packers (didn't know a thing about football previously!) and is taking a suitcase full of Salt Lick barbeque sauce and Texas Longhorn t-shirts to friends back home. She is also taking the warmth she felt from those she interviewed and now feels a real kinship with Impact Austin. As I've said so many times before, it's our warm and welcoming culture that attracts others to our cause.

Thanks to member, Celia Smith, there are now some women in Dallas who want to start Impact Dallas. I love evangelizing our model, and this feeds my passion for spreading awareness outside of Austin.

In March, the leaders from 22 similar organizations are meeting for our first conference in San Diego. I have been on the planning team for the last 6 months, and we are excited to share best practices with each other as we grow our Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network. There is so much we can learn from each other. This year, I will spend a lot of my time helping to build/expand this network across the country. This fits nicely with Impact Austin's mission of being 'progressive leaders in women's philanthropy'...which means we share our learnings with others so that they can be successful, too.

Effective February 1, I started my first term as a member of the National Board of Directors of the Jeremiah Program, based in Minneapolis, MN. They want to replicate their successful program in 12 cities by 2020, and they believe I can be

Culture:

Austin Classical Guitar Society
Blue Lapis Light
Latinitas
Paramount and State Theatres
Theatre Action Project

Education:

Austin Gifted dba ACE Academy
and Summer Wonders
Austin Partners in Education
Caritas of Austin
Con Mi MADRE
Girlstart
Open Door Preschools

Environment:

A Nurtured World
Austin Pets Alive
Campfire USA Balcones Council
Colorado River Foundation
Westcave Preserve

Family:

Any Baby Can of Austin, Inc
Austin Dog Alliance
Catholic Charities of Central
Texas
Parenting Across Color
Texas Advocacy Project, Inc.
The For the City Network

Health and Wellness:

Austin Child Guidance Center
Austin Children's Shelter
Center for Child Protection
For the Love of Christi
Grace After Fire
Round Rock Area Serving Center



FAC members hard at work



FAC members analyze LOIs

Save The Date

2011 Town Hall Meeting

Please join the Impact Austin Board and leadership team for a very important Town Hall Meeting.

- Meet our new Interim Executive Director, Donna Benson-Chan
- Hear from our Community Partners
- Discuss the financial fitness of Impact Austin

helpful to them in that endeavor. Austin is one place they are considering for replication. Again, it was an Impact Austin connection that provided this opportunity.

I am never too busy to have coffee with a member. Just email me, and we'll make it happen. I love keeping up with you all, too!!

- Rebecca Powers, Founder

Mark Your Calendar

Town Hall Meeting

Monday, February 21, 2011

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(RSVP)

or

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (RSVP)

Congregation Agudas Achim

7300 Hart Lane

Austin, TX 78731

Board Interest

Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The home of Jacqueline

Rixen

1703 Cullen Avenue

Austin, TX 78757

RSVP to Jacqueline at

jrixen@austin.rr.com

Annual Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2011

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Congregation Agudas Achim

7300 Hart Lane

Austin, TX 78731

Member Spotlight

by **Connie Lawyer**

· Discuss our plans for continued sustainability

We'll also allow time for your questions.

Town Hall Meeting

Monday, February 21, 2011

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (R.S.V.P. here)

or

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (R.S.V.P. here)

Congregation Agudas Achim

Social Hall

Dell Jewish Community Campus

7300 Hart Lane

Austin, TX 78731

[Map](#)

Please contact Board President Paula Klante at board@impact-austin.org with questions or for more information.

Community Partner Spotlight

Austin Groups for the Elderly

Philanthropy Brings Mobility to Austin Seniors

Impact Austin Funding Expands Services, Gives Safety to Elderly

With the support of Impact Austin, Central Texas has an innovative resource for seniors, people with disabilities, and their families. The Health Equipment Lending Program (H.E.L.P.) of [AGE](#) is the largest provider of free pieces of mobility and safety equipment, like wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, and shower chairs. In 2010, H.E.L.P almost doubled its service by providing over 1,100 items to needy individuals across Central Texas.



I was very fortunate in my professional career to participate in the explosive growth of a high-tech company in Austin which allowed me to achieve one of my goals of retiring early to enjoy life broader than the business world. At the time of my retirement, I felt a strong desire to "give back" or "pay it forward" because of the luck and the success that I had.

When I retired, most of my friends who knew the workaholic life I had lived for 25 years said they thought I would not be able to stay unemployed. My response was "Watch me!" and I stayed extremely busy for the next few years dating, traveling, getting married, building a house, and playing lots of tennis. I also told my friends that if I felt the need to work that I would either open an antique business or go to work for a nonprofit as a volunteer.

In 2003, after a little more than 2 years of retirement and through my favorite hobby of tennis, I met Ashley Goolsby. Ashley became involved in Impact Austin and asked me if I would be interested. This sounded like the perfect start of my quest to give back. I could learn about the nonprofit community in Austin through a donation and involvement on a Focus Area Committee. During my career I had been required to be active in a visible role in volunteer organizations and I had no desire at the time to continue those types of roles. Being a member on a Focus Area Committee was the "back seat" I wanted.

Anna Clepper had other ideas about



AGE volunteers collect and fix equipment

The recently re-named and re-branded service has operated as a source for mobility equipment for low-income seniors for several years--uninsured adults, indigent patients, and people with disabilities in the Austin region are assisted. Coordinating with local non-profits, hospitals, and other health providers, AGE HELP never charges for equipment and does not set limits on how long an individual can keep an item. AGE HELP relies totally on donations for its inventory, asking the community to give gently used equipment to an older adult in need. *Now thanks to the support of Impact Austin, the program is able to grow to meet the increasing needs of seniors and provide much quicker and efficient service to those in need.*

The grant funding provided by Impact Austin and in part by Health's Angels has allowed for expansion of the program by: underwriting a remodel of the storage space for the mobility equipment, funding the creation of an office space, contributing to the salary of the first full-time staff member, and financing the repair of damaged health equipment items. Funding from Impact Austin will continue to increase the program by expanding in 2012 to Williamson County and by supporting a new public awareness campaign.

my back seat involvement and asked me to co-chair a committee. I turned her down the first year because of significant involvement in another organization, but she was persistent so I agreed to co-chair the following year. A friend and former co-worker, Debbie Dupin, agreed to co-chair with me and we have thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic women and nonprofits that we have worked with on the Family and Health and Wellness Focus Area Committees. After two years as co-chairs, we both became more enthused about Impact Austin, so we both offered to take on other roles. I just wanted to help in any way I could even if it was just "stuffing envelopes". I met with Betsy Blair, a previous co-worker, and she asked me to take on the role of FAC Coordinator. Debbie accepted the role of Nonprofit Coordinator so we are still co-chairing! I have committed to being in this role for 2 years since it takes one year to learn a role and a second year to perform it with ease and potentially improve it. I am looking forward to discovering what will be my next role in my quest to "give back", but Impact Austin will always be a part of it because of providing me such a great beginning.

NEW for FY2011 -We want to know who your favorite Community Partner is and why. The members of Impact Austin would love to hear from you!

To share your story, please email Laura Green at newsletter@impact-austin.org

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 LinkedIn](#) 

View all our amazing videos on



Donations from the Jan 29, 2011 Clear Your Clutter Day

Brenda recently borrowed an electric wheelchair for her elderly neighbor who has trouble getting around. The next week the elderly woman had a doctor's appointment and was feeling very weak. Normally she would have canceled her appointment, not having the energy to even get dressed. She was so grateful for the wheelchair and how easy it made her day and her ability to make her doctor's appointment. Her neighbor immediately called and thanked us for the loan and its immediate and positive impact." This will truly change her life!"

Impact Through Involvement

Board Interest Meeting

We are recruiting board members to help guide Impact Austin into the future. Don't be shy! You need to be interested and engaged in our mission of grassroots philanthropy and ready to share your time and talents. Serving on the board is a wonderful way to make an impact through involvement.

If you are interested, you are invited to attend an informational meeting at board member Jacqueline Rixen's home:

Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: 1703 Cullen Avenue, Austin, 78757 (map)

RSVP to Jacqueline at jrixen@austin.rr.com

If you are unable to attend this meeting but have an interest in serving on the board, please contact Jacqueline at the email above.

Impact Austin's [YouTube Channel](#).

And don't forget to check out [Rebecca's 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 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 risk-takers.

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

CEO Transition Update

Introducing Donna Benson-Chan, Interim Executive Director

We are excited to welcome Donna Benson-Chan as Interim Executive Director as of February 1, 2011.

Donna has extensive nonprofit leadership experience most recently as the Interim Executive Director for [BookSpring](#) and with the [Lance Armstrong Foundation](#), where she served as the Director of Constituent Relations and Director of Human Resources. Donna also served in a leadership role as the Executive Director of the [Arlington County Medical Society and Foundation](#) in Arlington, Virginia. Join us in welcoming Donna to Impact Austin.



None of these exciting changes would be possible, however, without the vision and commitment of our Founder and CEO, Rebecca Powers. We thank Rebecca for building and growing Impact Austin from an organization of a few women to an organization of more than 540 members who, by June of this year, will award 30 grants totaling \$3,154,000.

Please join us for the Town Hall Meeting, where the Board of Directors will recognize Rebecca for her amazing work and introduce Donna. You can RSVP for one of the Town Hall Meeting times at the 'Save the Date' section of this newsletter.

Please join us in thanking Rebecca for her work and welcoming Donna. This is the beginning of a very exciting journey in creating a sustainable future full of successful grant making and community impact.

Girls Giving Grants

G3 Grants Update

After reviewing 31 grant applications, G3 members have selected six semi-finalists:

1. GENaustin
2. People's Community Clinic
3. Little Helping Hands
4. Big Brothers Big Sisters
5. Partnerships for Children

6. ARC of the Capital Area

From these six semi-finalists, G3 members voted for Big Brothers Big Sisters and People's Community Clinic to receive site visits. One of these two organizations will receive a \$5200 grant later this spring.

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