



# NEWS

For Extraordinary Members

## Interim Executive Director Message



Donna Benson-Chan  
Interim Executive Director

*"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."*

-Melody Beattie

It is the beginning of the giving season when I begin to reflect and make my list of what I am thankful for. This year, I am incredibly grateful to be working with the like-minded women of Impact Austin who make a difference in our community through their contributions, volunteer time, and high-impact grant making. As I take a look at our recent grants made earlier this year, we are in the midst of changing the lives of more than 13,000 individuals and their families by funding programs that:

- Train elementary teachers to engage students in language arts, math, science and social studies curriculum (reaching

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## Membership Update

### We're Counting on You for 2014!

We still need **190 women** to make our goal of 500 members joining together to make an IMPACT on our community through five high-impact grants. Become a member today, or say "Count me in" for the 2014 grant year!

[Become a Member!](#)

[Count Me In!](#)

1,500 students)

- Support youth who have been aged out of foster care and are at risk for joblessness, homelessness and/or incarceration (serving 90 youth)
- Teach students about the importance of water conservation (reaching 5,000 7th graders)
- Support the development of a curriculum for court-ordered services for girls at high risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system (serving 900 girls)
- Help grow a dental clinic by purchasing three new dental chair systems (provides services to 6,000 patients)

I just want to send a special thanks to all of you for your extraordinary work and for once again bringing me back to Impact Austin.

With admiration and gratitude,  
Donna Benson-Chan



Join today and you can make an impact, too, like members Kali' Rourke and Lorene Phillips.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Community Membership Coffee

(please note date change)

Wednesday, November 13th  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Kendra Scott**

1400 S. Congress Ave.Ste. A-170  
Austin, TX 78704 ([map](#))  
[Register](#)

Tuesday December 17th  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**The Mosaic at Mueller Clubhouse**

4600 Mueller Blvd  
Austin, TX 78723 ([map](#))  
[Register](#)

### In-Home Membership Coffees

We also have the following in-home coffees in our members' homes.  
Contact [Becky Griner](#) for details.

November 4th @ 7 p.m.  
(zip code 78726)

November 5th @ 7 p.m.  
(zip code 78759)

November 12th @ 7 p.m.  
(zip code 78759)

### Focus Area Committee (FAC) Orientation

(For members who plan to participate on an FAC in 2014 and have not participated on an FAC in the past. Returning members are welcome, too!)

**Tuesday, December 3rd**  
**Thursday, January 2nd**

## Each One Bring One Raffle

If each current member introduced one new member to Impact Austin, we would exceed our goal!

When your referred new member joins Impact Austin for the 2014 grant year, you will be entered into a raffle for [five hours of personal organizing with Jeff Mallon](#), a \$250 value!

You will receive one raffle entry for each new member.

If you have already referred a new member to Impact Austin for the 2014 grant year, contact [Jen Hornish](#) and she will enter your name into the raffle.

One of the best ways to refer a new member to Impact Austin is to bring friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to a Community Membership Coffee. Sign up for our November coffee today!

**Wednesday, November 13th**

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

**Kendra Scott**

1400 S. Congress Ave.Ste. A-170  
Austin, TX 78704 ([map](#))

[Register](#)

We have just added a **Last Chance** Community Coffee:

**Tuesday December 17th**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**The Mosaic at Mueller Clubhouse**

4600 Mueller Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78723 ([map](#))

[Register](#)

## Save The Date

### 2014 Discovery Day

**Tuesday, January 7th****Thursday, January 9th****6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**\*\*Please save one of the dates and be on the lookout for more information in your email soon!\*\***

**Discovery Day****Saturday, January 4th****8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

Region 13 Education Service Center

5701 Springdale Rd

Austin, TX 78723 ([map](#))**Member Spotlight****Victoria Bergin**

Interviewed by Susan Mack



Victoria Bergin

With any group of women working together, you might expect to need a trained mediator. But when Victoria Bergin, who regularly volunteers as a mediator in Spanish at the juvenile justice center and for the Dispute Resolution Center, came into contact with Impact Austin, she was amazed at how well this group of women works together.

"When I first went to an annual meeting," she says, "I saw 500 women with families, businesses, and full lives who were all coming together for one cause. And then, when I joined the FAC, these wonderful women came in who were all prepared and ready to discuss the proposals intelligently. It was wonderful."

Victoria first learned about the organization early in its formation, as Rebecca Powers was recruiting the first 100 members. Victoria went to what she thought was going to be a meeting about business incubation and ended up learning about Impact Austin. Although she wasn't ready to join at that time, the idea stuck with her, and when she met several Impact Austin members at her neighbor, Susan Noble's, memorial service two years ago, she recognized them from that meeting almost ten years before. And it was time to join.

Please join us for another fact-filled Discovery Day as we kick off 2014! This is one of Impact Austin's signature events.

**Discovery Day****Saturday, January 4, 2014****8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

Region 13 Education Service Center

5701 Springdale Rd

Austin, TX 78723 ([map](#))

We will learn from community leaders and enhance our knowledge of the critical issues impacting Central Texas. Speakers will share their insights about challenges and trends in each of our five grant-making focus areas. This event is open to all members, and each member is welcome to invite a friend to introduce them to Impact Austin. Members: Please look for an e-mail invitation November 22nd..

Immediately following Discovery Day, you are invited to attend a Member Orientation for current and new members who want to learn more about Impact Austin and how to get involved. Lunch will be provided.

## Impact Through Involvement

### Sign up for Impact Austin's 2014 Focus Area Committees

Are you interested in learning about the grant giving process and the various non-profits serving the needs of our community? Would you like to collaborate with a team of women responsible for evaluating Impact Austin grant applications and choosing the finalists our members vote on to receive our funding?

If so, consider participating on a Focus Area Committee (FAC). There are five committees, one for each of the Impact Austin funding areas: culture, education, environment, family and health and wellness. FAC participation requires a time commitment of 40 to 50 hours beginning mid-January and continuing through mid-May.

This commitment includes five committee meetings, two subcommittee meetings, background research, three site visits to the semifinalists and some additional work preparing the two finalists prior to the Annual Meeting in June. It is a fun and rewarding experience.



FAC members hard at work!

Watch for emails providing more information on the FAC sign up process.

**Please sign up by December 11th!** For additional information contact Susan Blount or Sheryl Brown at [FAC\\_coordinator@impact-austin.org](mailto:FAC_coordinator@impact-austin.org).

## Grants Update



"This is the way to give," she says. "You give \$1000 on your own, and it's not enough to make a difference, but if you get 99 other women to join in so you get \$100,000, you can really make an impact."

Vicky talks about how much she likes site visits and touching the organizations that she gives to. Being able to see the trailer or the facility that you're donating to, and meeting some of the people who will receive services means that every one of the people who benefit from this grant is someone who you feel like you have personally connected with.

"I like to volunteer as a mediator because it's very personal," Vicky says, "For that moment, I am completely connected to the family I'm working with, and I might be changing the direction of their lives. It's much more fulfilling than writing an anonymous check. Impact Austin is the same way. I have a chance to give in a way that is very personal, and is changing lives."

### Susan Noble Scholarship Recipients

Meet the inaugural class of our Susan Noble Member Scholarship recipients, honored recently at a luncheon at the home of founder, Rebecca Powers, where we shared with them Susan's unique legacy as an Impact Austin member. Susan's bequest allows women employed by nonprofits we've chosen as Community Partners over the years to become members of Impact Austin for a year. We will learn from them and vice versa! Susan Noble lived a life that mattered, and upon her death in 2011, ensured that her love for her community will live on for years to come.



#### L to R BACK ROW:

Linda Thompson, Boys & Girls Club  
Jessica Wassenaar, Austin Parks Foundation  
Sofia Casini, AVANCE  
Callie Langford, CASA

#### L to R FRONT ROW:

Maica Jordan, Austin Theatre Alliance  
Jacki Brinker, Urban Roots  
Ellie McKay, ZACH Theatre  
Lora Hollingsworth, AGE of Central Texas

## Recap of the 9th Annual Nonprofit Workshop

Impact Austin held its 9th annual workshop for Austin area nonprofits on October 21st at the Region 13 Education Center. Over 100 representatives of local nonprofits learned about Impact Austin - who we are, the grant process, eligibility guidelines, our 5 focus areas and key criteria that submissions are evaluated against. Nat Miller, the Education Director for [Zach Theatre](#), spoke on the importance of picking a strong project that matches the mission of the nonprofit for Impact Austin's grant cycle.

For the second year there was a moderated panel Q&A session lead by Suzy Rowley, Impact Austin's Nonprofit Coordinator. Thanks to Nat Miller, Sheryl Brown, Impact Austin's Focus Area Co-Coordinator and Stefanie Cavanaugh, Impact Austin's Grant Finance Committee Co-Chair for their participation on the panel.



Over 100 representatives of local nonprofits attended the 8th annual Nonprofit Workshop

A very special thanks to the Region 13 Education Center for hosting our event, Thundercloud Subs for providing lunch and all of our amazing Impact Austin volunteers who helped make this year's workshop such a success!!

## Community Partner Spotlight

### Manos de Cristo : Growing and Giving Thanks

Twenty-five years ago, one of our founders, Rev. Frank Diaz, spoke of the poor and homeless constantly knocking on the doors of his church, El Buen Pastor in East Austin. Many were young men asking for baby food. Rev. Diaz assumed they had children to feed. He soon found he was wrong. As he said, "these men would smile... But they had no teeth."

The local hospital could not provide the dental care they needed. People suffering from toothaches could not endure the pain, so they resorted to pulling their own teeth. Many even visited a local man working out of his garage who used pliers to pull their teeth for them. Something had to be done. The Manos de Cristo Dental Center was envisioned and created by many generous supporters in the community and a very determined Board of Directors.

Two recipients not included in the photo: Cathy Jones, Austin Partners in Education, and Julie Ballesteros, Manos De Cristo.

Thanks to them all!

## In The News

Board Member Kali' Rourke has done an excellent job spreading the word about Impact Austin in a series of recent interviews. Listen to one example by [clicking here](#). Wow, she's good!



Kali' at her interview for KXAN.

## Connect with Us

We invite you to visit us online at [www.impact-austin.org](http://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 our videos on YouTube 

Learn how to [volunteer](#).

## 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



The expanded Manos de Cristo Dental Center will celebrate its grand opening this November.

Twenty-five years later, [Manos de Cristo](#) remains the only provider of quality low-cost emergency, restorative, and preventative dental care and patient education. Today we serve over 4,200 patients a year in our clinic. And the need continues to grow year after year. To meet the growing demand, the Board of Directors developed a vision to expand from four treatment rooms to eleven treatment rooms and serve 7,000 more patients a year. After 18 months of planning, fundraising, and renovation, we are happy to announce that the expanded Manos de Cristo Dental Center will celebrate a grand opening this November. The vision to meet the growing need for emergency, low-cost dental care for people in poverty became a reality thanks to many caring donors in our community. Manos is very excited to be selected as one of this year's Impact Austin grant recipients. The generous grant will equip three of our new treatment rooms with the equipment and supplies to provide high quality treatment. These chairs will be visited by more than 3,000 low-income patients a year. Over the 10-year life span of the chairs, over 30,000 patients will have been impacted by the grant.

At Manos, we'll be giving thanks for many blessings such as all of the amazing members of Impact Austin. Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to give children, adults and seniors the smiles they all deserve.

## AVANCE : Austin's Del Valle Parent-Child Education Program

"Do you love your children?" Women of Impact Austin responded with a resounding "Yes!" Together you made the decision to change the trajectory of 50 young Latino children's lives - all from disadvantaged families living in rural Del Valle.

Before [AVANCE](#), there was no early childhood development or parenting programs in Del Valle. Latino parents struggled, unfamiliar with the U.S. school system and dealing with poverty, isolation, and language. So did the school district. A large influx of English language learners was arriving in Kindergarten without knowing a single letter or color, and years behind other children who could already count, speak in complete sentences, and write.

From Sept. 2012 to May 2013, AVANCE's Parent and Early Childhood Educators taught weekly classes at Creedmoor and Baty Elementary. Parents

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.

learned about their children's development and the importance of making their home environments stimulating. They were also taught English and connected to resources like foodstamps, domestic violence assistance, and computer literacy. In adjacent classrooms their children learned letters, numbers, and vocabulary. They developed socially and emotionally, and motor skills became stronger. Children got school ready!

Monthly, our Parent Educator navigated the pothole filled back roads of Del Valle visiting families in trailer parks and homes surrounded by corn fields and trees. Martha, a professional with 20 years experience in war-torn Colombia, came back the first day in tears. The poverty she saw in our mothers' homes was overwhelming - some families had no table, just a single plastic chair. During visits, Martha helped with parenting skills and screened children for developmental delays.



The AVANCE Mother and Child 2013 Graduates of Baty Elementary, Del Valle ISD

Stories like Natalia's underline the importance of catching issues early:

Natalia Nava, from Mexico, joined AVANCE with her children, 2 ½ yr. old Michael and 10 month old Sofia. From the beginning she shared concern, saying, "Michael does not speak and I don't know if that is normal." Martha evaluated Michael's social, cognitive, language, fine and gross motor skills and concerns were confirmed - he failed the language portion. We connected the family with a speech pathologist for specialized care. The evaluation prompted Natalia to take action personally. She now uses books and educational toys made in the AVANCE classroom with her children as a part of their everyday routine. Michael is progressing rapidly, and Sofia will never experience her brother's struggles because she is getting what she needs.

Thanks to Impact Austin, young children like Michael and Sofia gained access to early education, and mothers received tools to support their educational journey. Most importantly, you started something wonderful which we have sustained. At the close of the pilot we developed an innovative partnership with Del Valle ISD. Their Parent Liaison is now trained as our Parent Educator and uses AVANCE's evidence-based curriculum in the classroom, while home visits are conducted by our AmeriCorps member, a former AVANCE mom from the class of 1999! Today, we're serving a whole new group of at-risk parents and children at Baty Elementary, and giving them access to a lifetime of opportunities.

## Girls Giving Grants Update G3 Celebrates Its Ninth Year!



[Girls Giving Grants](#) (G3) is in its ninth year of collective giving. There are 52 members this year from over 18 middle schools and high schools as well as eight dedicated adult leaders. Thirty-four nonprofit organizations applied for their grant this year and in April, one of them will be awarded \$5200. The girls began reviewing the grant applications in November. Last year's grant recipient was [Easter Seals Central Texas](#).



2013-2014 g3 Members

[Forward email](#)



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