



NEWS

For Extraordinary Members

Executive Director Message



Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Executive Director

11/2/2012

The City, The Marathon, and Me

As many of you know, I have been training to do the NYC Marathon on November 4th in honor of Impact Austin and in celebration of my 40th birthday. It is now the eve of my trip, and we are in limbo if we will make the trip.

With flight delays, an apartment rental without power, and transportation at a standstill, we struggle with our decision to stay or go. I know there is something much larger than if we will make a trip or not...it is the women, men and children impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Today, I read in the New York Times stories of tragedy, courage and hope. There were stories of people without power taking in neighbors to help them stay warm and dry, of tourists volunteering to help with the clean-up, and of city employees working around the clock to restore power.

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Membership Update

Become a Member!



It's not too late to join for our 10th year. [Become a member!](#)



New Member Party

A Hill County holiday party for new members of Impact Austin!

Sunday, December 2, 2012

It inspires me to see people coming together across the country to help those in need. I consider myself blessed to work with a group of women every day that help those in need. Your work at Impact Austin is so important and meaningful, and I thank you. I would like to leave you with a quote that makes me think of the women of Impact Austin and the community work we do and support that makes a difference every day.

"Even greater than the ability to inspire others with hope is the power to motivate them to give as much to the lives of others as they would give to their own; and to empower them to confront the worst in themselves in order to discover and claim the best in themselves."

Sincerely,
Liz



Update - Although the NYC marathon was cancelled, Liz joined thousands of runners from around the world and ran a marathon through Central Park on November 4. Her daughter, Vivian, met her at the finish with a big smile!

Mark Your Calendar

Community Membership Coffee

***Tonight! Not too late to attend!**
Thursday, November 8th
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sikara & Co.
417 West 2nd Street
Austin, TX 78701
[Register](#)

Impact Austin On The Move

Sunday, November 11th
12:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(agenda in the 'Membership Update'
section of the newsletter)
RSVP: [Dawn Skinner](#) by Nov. 9th

New Member Party

Sunday, December 2nd
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Kerri Morrison's home
23 Waterfall Dr.

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

At the home of Kerri Morrison
23 Waterfall Drive
The Hills, TX ([map](#))

Come meet other fabulous new members for a holiday evening of fun and conversation. Bring a friend or two that might join our membership!!!

Please bring a bottle of wine to celebrate the season.

Save the date. Invite to follow via Paperless Post.



Impact Austin - On The Move

Impact Austin - On The Move is a series of visits to our Community Partners to see the impact of our grants firsthand. On November 11th, we will have the opportunity to visit [Austin Child Guidance Center](#) and [CASA of Travis County](#). The program at each location will consist of introductions and welcome, a 'show and tell' related to the program, and Q&A.

Sunday, November 11th

Agenda:

12:45 p.m.: Meet at Austin Child Guidance Center, 810 West 45th Street, 78751 (NE corner of 45th St. and Lamar)
[map](#)

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.: Program at Austin Child Guidance Center

2 p.m.: Carpool to CASA of Travis County, 7701 N. Lamar, 78752 (on the east side of Lamar, just south of Hwy 183)
[map](#)

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Program at CASA of Travis County

3:30 p.m.: Carpool back to Austin Child Guidance Center, and then go to Galaxy Cafe in the Triangle for snacks/ socializing.

RSVP: Email [Dawn Skinner](#) by November 9th.

Membership Reminder! If you have not yet paid your membership dues, please stop by Galaxy Cafe after the tour. Liz Fitzgerald will be there to accept your membership payment. [Contact Liz](#) for more information.

Save The Date 2013 Discovery Day

Please join us for another fact-filled Discovery Day as we kick off 2013 and Impact Austin's 10th Anniversary. This is one of Impact Austin's signature events.

Discovery Day
Saturday, January 5, 2013
8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Region 13 Education Service Center
5701 Springdale Rd

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

Focus Area Committee (FAC) Orientation

(For members who plan to participate on an FAC in 2013 and have not participated on an FAC in the past. Returning members are welcome, too!)

Tuesday, December 4th

Thursday, January 3rd

Tuesday, January 8th

****Please save the date and be on the lookout for more information in your email soon!****

Discovery Day

Saturday, January 5th

8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Region 13 Education Service Center
5701 Springdale Rd
Austin, TX 78723 ([map](#))

G3 Spotlight

Claire Powers



Claire Powers, Impact Austin Founder Rebecca Powers' daughter, founded [Girls Giving Grants](#) in 2005. Claire was a freshman at St. Stephen's at the time. Since founding Girls Giving Grants, Claire served as its first Application Review Committee chair and its first President. Claire graduated High School and moved to Washington D.C. where she attended George Washington University. At GWU, she participated in multiple philanthropic organizations. Claire was her sorority's philanthropy chair as well as instrumental in the Engineers Without Borders organization. Claire recently graduated and returned to Austin to attend graduate school at UT. She joined g3 as an adult advisor this year, making her the first member turned adult leader for g3! Claire is an inspiration to the girls in g3 and is the perfect example of the Impact Austin mission to bring new resources to the community by educating and empowering our next generation of philanthropists!

When asked about her role in g3 and her community, Claire replied with the

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. Please look for an e-mail invitation next week.

For those that wish to continue the dialogue of the morning and build friendships with fellow Impact Austin members, we are offering an optional lunch following the event. Look for the location in the upcoming invite!

Impact Through Involvement

Sign up for Impact Austin's 2013 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 diverse group of women who are responsible for reviewing 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. Participation on a FAC requires a time commitment of 40-50 hours beginning mid-January and continuing through mid-May. This commitment includes training, 5-6 committee meetings, individual and team research, 2-3 site visits once semifinalists are identified and additional work with the finalists prior to the Annual Meeting. It is a fun and rewarding experience.



2012 FAC members hard at work!

Watch for an email in mid-November providing more information on the FAC sign-up process. Or, for additional information contact Susan Blount at sblount@impact-austin.org.

Grants Update

Recap of the 8th Annual Nonprofit Workshop

Impact Austin held its 8th annual workshop for Austin area nonprofits on October 31st 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 submissions are evaluated against. Karen LaShelle, Creative Action (formerly Theatre Action Project) Executive Director, spoke about her agency's experience as an Impact Austin applicant and their success in becoming one of our Community Partners.

following quote: "It has been such a wonderful experience to return to g3 as an advisor. I think the fact that I was excited to come back full circle really shows the impact and the strength of the organization. It's wonderful to be on the other side of it and reflect back on when I was a member. Sometimes I wonder if I was ever as smart and thoughtful as the current members...they are all such wonderfully inquisitive young women! After having the opportunity to hold leadership positions in multiple student organizations at GWU and expand my community service and philanthropy, I am so thankful to return to Austin and now have a leadership role with g3. Without g3, I'm not sure I would've had as strong of a desire to continue my philanthropic efforts, and I would not have found my current passion, [Engineers without Borders](#)."

One Member's Story

by Kali Rourke



I found Impact Austin completely by chance.

I opened up the newspaper one morning in 2004 and read about a group of women who were joining together to make a difference in Central Texas Philanthropy. At the time, they were meeting at Grapevine Market in Northwest Austin, so that was fairly convenient for me. "What the heck," I thought, "At the very least I will pick up some great wine!"

Little did I know my life was about to change.

I did volunteer work through my children's schools for years, and finally drank the "Kool-Aid" that is PTA, giving me confidence that with expertise and energy, women like me can make a huge impact. (Yes, PTA is a definitely a gateway drug to volunteering addiction!) The Impact Austin meeting I attended furthered my conviction that this was the group for me, and I wrote my check that very night.

I started on my first Focus Area Committee (Culture) in January,



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

Part of the new format this year was a moderated panel Q&A session lead by Suzy Rowley. Thanks to our panel participants:

- Karen LaShelle, Creative Action Executive Director
- Lisa Fielder, College Forward Chief Executive Officer
- Liz Fitzgerald, Impact Austin Executive Director
- Betsy Blair, Impact Austin Grants Committee Chair
- Mary McKeown-Moak, IA Grant Finance Committee Co-Chair

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

2012 WCGN Conference Recap

The 2012 Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network (WCGN) Conference was hosted by Impact Austin and held in Austin on October 16-18. This conference brought over 90 participants from nearly 30 women's collective giving organizations from all over the country (and one lovely participant/speaker from Australia!) to hear from amazing speakers, take part in breakout and plenary sessions, make new friends, learn new ideas, and celebrate our collective success.



90+ women from nearly 30 women's collective giving organizations attended

the WCGN 2012 Conference, hosted by Impact Austin October 16-18

2005, under the leadership of the amazing Betsy Blair, and began my continuing commitment to Impact Austin. I joined the Board of Directors last year as Secretary, took the Vice President role for the Board this year, and recently had the privilege of attending and presenting at the Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network Conference.

Impact Austin membership and involvement is a gift we give ourselves. The work we do, the education we receive, the leadership opportunities we are offered, and the women we form relationships with become change agents in our lives. In addition, I experienced the satisfaction of seeing my \$1,000 leverage over \$500,000 in grants, while personally learning more about my community and its needs. There is nothing else quite like it, and I expect to have Impact Austin in my life for years to come!

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 our videos on YouTube 

Sign up 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 long-term sustainability by tapping into the talents of our members and building Impact Austin from the "inside out."

WCGN, which is 5,630 women and 28 collective giving groups strong, was formed to inspire women to build and grow collective giving organizations in their own communities that empower women to combine their money AND their intellectual capital for the common good.



Rebecca Powers, Impact Austin Founder and 2012 WCGN Conference Planning Chair, and members Kathrine Weaver, Debe McKeand, and Phylis Donelson are just a few of the women that made this conference possible!

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the WCGN 2012 Conference!

Girls Giving Grants Update

G3 Celebrates Largest Membership Number to Date!

[Girls Giving Grants](#) (G3) is in its eighth year of collective giving. There are 59 members this year from over 20 middle schools and high schools as well as seven dedicated adult leaders. Seventeen nonprofit organizations applied for their grant this year and in April, one of them will be awarded \$5900. The girls began reviewing the grant applications in November. Last year's grant recipient was [The Christi Center](#).



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