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Our Founder



Rebecca Powers

This is the third article in a series that discusses the four bullet points I mentioned in my letter to you this summer. One of our priorities is to improve operational and grant making efficiencies. In August, we signed an agreement to purchase a software license from CTK for an online grants applications, membership and volunteer management system. We expect full implementation of this system by July 1, 2009. This system will allow our FACs to operate more efficiently, and it will allow us to access much more information about our members and how each of you would like to participate (or not!) in a personally meaningful way...whether it's internal or external to Impact Austin. This is an exciting step for us as an organization! If you would like to help with our technology needs, please contact Meeta Kothare. mkothare@impact-austin.org.

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 women are inspirational role models reaching their full giving potential for a better quality of life in our community.

Our Values

Transparency - We are an open book.
Excellence - We are thorough, professional and go above and beyond.

Membership Activities Full Speed Ahead for 2009



Above: Melynda Caudle, Susan Blount, Bobbie Tsukahara, and Lisa Blackwood.

The economy may be in a slump but Austin area women remain interested in supporting local philanthropic activities. On September 29, Impact Austin again hosted a successful membership event at Grape Vine Market, attracting many past members and several prospective members. **A second Grape Vine Market coffee is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 13**, and numerous coffees are scheduled in October and November in the homes of individual Impact Austin members. Check the calendar on the Impact Austin web site for times, dates and places (www.impact-austin.org). Contact Coffee Coordinator [Debi Stafford](#) if you would like to attend one of the scheduled coffees, or want to plan a coffee of your own!

As always, a very special thank you to Grape Vine Market for hosting our events and providing outstanding refreshments each evening. Their support is integral to our successful recruiting efforts. We are well on the way to meeting our membership target for 2009 and to another successful year of supporting Austin-area non-profits!

Ask a friend to join Impact Austin! For more information, contact [Barbara Ellis](#) (Membership Chair), or visit our [website](#).

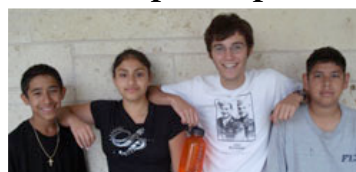
Lynne Twist seminar only days away!

Register now for the inspiring seminar, The Soul of Money, by author Lynne Twist on October 16 at the Dell Jewish Community Center. Come hear how to free up oceans of energy to make what you have make a difference. We sincerely appreciate [South Texas Money Management, Ltd.](#) for underwriting this event. Our thanks also to the Association of Fund Raising Professionals for allowing us to use their website for registrations.



Cost: \$20.00
Register online

Grant Recipient Update



Breakthrough Austin enrolled ninety rising 7th and 8th graders in their 2008 Middle School Summer Session, thanks to our grant. Student experiences ranged from classes on the University of Texas campus to seeing and performing

Shakespeare at Winedale. One student remarked, "My only experience with college was that my mom was a custodian at UT. When I joined Breakthrough and spent time there, I literally had a breakthrough. I

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.

110% Campaign Going the Extra Mile

We often hear people say "go the extra mile". For some the extra mile isn't that far and for others it can be a long distance. Regardless of this fact, we are often compelled to go the extra mile to support efforts we believe in. At Impact Austin we are deeply thankful for your commitment to the community and hope that you will consider going the extra mile by growing your giving 10%.

Breakthrough and spent time there, I merely had a breakthrough. I realized that I could go to college." The year-round Breakthrough program continues with enrichment activities during the school year at St Stephens and resumes at UT for the 2009 summer session.

Focus Area Committee (FAC) Registration and Orientation Sessions

Participation in a FAC is a rewarding experience and we are looking forward to the year ahead. And you don't need an MBA or years of business experience to be an effective participant! In late October, Impact Austin members will receive an email outlining the FAC process. Those interested in serving will be asked to complete a survey noting preferences and interests in specific areas. Responses will be compiled, and FAC assignments will be announced in January. All Impact Austin members who meet the time requirements necessary for participation are encouraged to join a FAC. In November dates and locations for FAC orientation meetings will be announced. New and returning members are welcome!

2008 Member Survey results

Our thanks to the 229 members who responded to our 2008 online member survey this summer. We are pleased with the outstanding response rate and appreciate your time and feedback.

What we heard from you

Women continue to be drawn to Impact Austin to connect with other women with similar philanthropic interests, to learn about our community, and to impact the community through pooled resources. This sense of connection and giving back to the community was reinforced among women who volunteered throughout the organization, whether on Focus Area Committees (FACs) to evaluate grants or in other aspects of our operations. Ninety percent of FAC members and 96% of other volunteers rated their experience as excellent or good. FAC members enjoyed the new multi-step training process, but also made suggestions for fine-tuning it. Many of you asked for more volunteer opportunities in other areas of Impact Austin, including those with lower time commitments.

Ninety six percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with our choice of grant recipients. Some of your concerns included: sustainability of the programs, not enough information to distinguish between two very closely matched finalists, and differences in quality across focus areas. Annual meeting attendees were generally happy with the venue and format of the meeting, except for the longer vote-counting process than in past years.

Members also seemed happy with our level and quality of communication (newsletters, etc.) throughout the year. You asked us for more information about grant recipients and more communication about critical organizational changes. You would also like to see us continue events such as Discovery Day to inform you of the needs in our community, and other networking events for members to get to know one another.

What we are doing about it

First of all, a big thank you to all our members! Impact Austin is member-powered and all the kudos in this survey belong to you, to all of you -- for committing your funds, for telling a friend about us, for attending events, for giving your time in projects big and small. Each one of you has helped Impact Austin grow and move forward! Your impact goes beyond your contributions to Impact Austin. Thirty seven percent of you report that you donate time and money to other organizations that you heard about through Impact Austin!

We take your suggestions for improvement seriously and will strive to make Impact Austin better. We have made significant changes in our operations that provide more volunteer opportunities to those who are interested. We recently held a successful Volunteer Lunch & Learn and recruited several volunteers. We will continue to provide you more information on our grant recipients and on our community (through our newsletters and events). We are working hard to improve our processes and communications. Earlier in the year, we formed our first ever Committee Cabinet to provide operational leadership in key areas. We're upgrading our technology to better serve your needs. Stay tuned to new developments throughout the year!

We welcome your feedback and want to answer any questions you have. Your satisfaction is our goal! Please contact Meeta Kothare at mkothare@impact-austin.org.

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