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Girls Giving Grants chooses Helping Hand Home for Children *Kids Closet Program* as its 2014 Community Partner

AUSTIN, Texas – *Helping Hand Home* was the final choice of 52 young women from Girls Giving Grants (G3), the youth extension of Impact Austin, a local women's philanthropic organization. G3 will award the organization \$5,200 for its Kids Closet program on Thursday, April 24 at 5:30 pm at the Helping Hand Home for Children. The Home cares for children in the foster care system who are healing from severe abuse and neglect. The funds will support the Kids' Closet, which provides new and seasonally appropriate clothes to 70 children each year. The Kids' Closet helps the children practice decision-making skills, learn to trust adults again, and develop an increased sense of worth.

"I knew from the start that Helping Hand Home was a wonderful place serving a worthwhile cause. Once I had the opportunity to visit the home and meet the staff, I realized what an incredible and lasting impact the home has on the children there. From the moment I walked in the door, the home had a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. It was the staff, however, that proved what a spectacular place the Helping Hand Home is. The staff spoke with confidence and passion for the work they are doing. It is clear that

the staff is dedicated to improving the lives and bettering the futures of the children at the home. We are lucky to have an opportunity to help the Helping Hand Home on their mission,” said Madi Wright, G3 president and a senior at Westlake High School. G3’s members come from over twenty middle schools and high schools in the Austin area and membership is open to young women in grades 8 through 12.

Since 2006, G3 has awarded more than \$30,000 to the community. Past recipients include People’s Community Clinic, Austin Sunshine Camps, Hospice Austin, Austin Children’s Shelter, the Center for Child Protection and LifeWorks. Vanessa Davila, Grant and Program Research Manager for Helping Hand Home for Children said, “Thanks to the girls’ generosity, the children of Helping Hand Home will continue to have new, well-fitted, and seasonally appropriate clothes and shoes. Helping Hand Home is excited to partner with this amazing group of young philanthropists.”

G3 provides an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the power of collective philanthropy. Girls combine their \$100 individual donations, review grant applications and award a single grant to a charitable organization annually.

“This program was started by teenage girls who built it from the ground up,” said Dina Mavridis, director of Girls Giving Grants. “G3 is the only all-girl, grant-making cooperative in Austin that is fully funded and operated by its young members. Our members have complete ownership—from funding the grant themselves, to making the final determination of their grant recipient. Their grants make an impact on the community today and the learning experience makes an impact on the girls forever.”

Girls Giving Grants is the youth extension of Impact Austin. Impact Austin is a 501(c)(3) public charity made up of women seeking to transform lives in the Austin area through high-impact and lifelong giving. For more information, visit www.impact-austin.org.
