



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Contact: Laura Green
Cell: 512.659.5308
lgreen@impact-austin.org

IMPACT AUSTIN GIVES \$542,000 TO LOCAL AUSTIN GROUPS **Five Non-Profits Each Receive \$108,400 Grant**

June 7, 2011 – (Austin, TX) – Five local Austin groups can breathe a little easier this year thanks to Impact Austin, a local philanthropic group of women, who today named the winners of the Impact Austin Community Partner grants. The Paramount and State Theatres, Austin Partners in Education, Camp Fire USA Balcones Council, Texas Advocacy Project, and Austin Child Guidance Center each received a grant of \$108,400 for services and programming in the Austin area.

Each year Impact Austin considers proposals in five focus areas: culture, education, environment, family, and health and wellness. The finalists are chosen by focus area committees that evaluate proposals and conduct site visits before making recommendations to the general membership.

“These organizations do so much for our community,” said Impact Austin Founder Rebecca Powers. “We are thrilled to provide this funding to advance their programming.” She added, “I’m proud and excited to know this money was donated by local women making a difference in Austin.”

Impact Austin is a non-profit group of women seeking to transform lives in the Austin-area through philanthropy. Each member gives at least \$1,000 each year, which is then combined with the donations of the other 542 members to provide grants to local non-profits. To date, Impact Austin has donated more than \$3.1 million to local area projects.

“It’s amazing and inspiring to give sizable grants to our community,” said Powers. “We’ve given more than \$3 million to 30 non-profits over the last eight years, impacting thousands of lives. That’s exciting.” She added, “In addition, hundreds of women have become informed philanthropists, connecting their confidence with their capacity to create transformational change in our community.”

A media event/award presentation will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 13 at The Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX. Media are invited to attend the 10:30 a.m. presentation or any of the events throughout the day. The times and locations of each award presentation will appear on the Impact Austin website, www.impact-austin.org by Friday, June 10. A media alert will be distributed as well. For more information, please contact Laura Green at 512.659.5308 or lgreen@impact-austin.org.

The five 2011 Community Partners and their proposed use of Impact Austin's grant money are:

CULTURE

Organization: The Paramount and State Theatres

Project: Literacy to Life

The Paramount Theatre's Literacy to Life program is an eight week workshop in 3rd and 4th grade classrooms that uses drama, storytelling, and writing exercises to help students develop writing skills and celebrate the power of their imaginations. At the end of the residency, an ensemble of professional actors honors the creative voices of these students by bringing their writing to life in an energetic production for the whole school to see.

EDUCATION

Organization: Austin Partners in Education

Project: 6th Grade Reading Classroom Coaching

Austin Partners in Education's 6th Grade Reading Coaching Program will empower 6th grade students to become stronger, independent readers through Reading Classroom Coaching. In a new program, Reading Stars, students will work weekly with their Classroom Coach to perfect their reading and will have the opportunity to star in their own book-on-tape. This program will impact 500 6th graders at Burnet or Pearce Middle schools that are reading below grade level.

ENVIRONMENT

Organization: Camp Fire USA Balcones Council

Project: Camp Fire Kids Unplugged

Camp Fire USA Balcones Council will establish ten Camp Fire Kids Unplugged clubs in seven Del Valle elementary schools, connecting house-restricted, underprivileged children and their families with nature. Eighty participating families will experience fun outdoor recreational activities led by nature experts and club mentors. The families will be trained in safety procedures and nature preservation, and each club will complete an annual environmental stewardship project.

FAMILY

Organization: Texas Advocacy Project

Project: Emergency Protective Order Project

Texas Advocacy Project is a statewide, nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence and is committed to ending violence in the home because no child should ever have to watch one parent abuse the other. The Emergency Protective Order Program provides victims of domestic violence with access to legal advice and assistance in obtaining protective orders during the critical period immediately after an abuser's arrest and during the following weeks as they make their transition to permanent safety.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Organization: Austin Child Guidance Center

Project: Children's Mental Health Expansion Initiative

Austin Child Guidance Center, through their Children's Mental Health Expansion Initiative, will hire two new therapists to provide individual, family and group therapy, parenting classes and psychological assessments for Central Texas children. This will increase the number of children and families served at the center by 67%. These therapists will complete a process to qualify for reimbursement for their services from

private insurance companies and government agencies, making this one-time investment self-sustaining.

For interviews with the 2011 Community Partners or an Impact Austin Grants representative, contact – Laura Green, 512.659.5308 or lgreen@impact-austin.org.

About 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. The only membership requirements are to be female and donate \$1,000 each year. Impact Austin combines the annual donations from members and gives large grants each year to local worthy causes selected by the members. Grant applications are accepted in each of the following focus areas: culture, environment, education, family, and health and wellness. Collectively, we are changing the face of philanthropy in Austin www.impact-austin.org.