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News

FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEMBERS

A Message from Our Founder



Rebecca Powers

In mid-January, the Impact Austin board will learn what you, our members, are thinking-based on the results of three focus group meetings facilitated by Dini Partners. We appreciate each member who shared her thoughts and ideas about our future as an organization. We will hold a 'Town Hall' meeting in early March to give our entire membership an opportunity to hear the results first-hand. That way, everyone can learn what was discussed, ask questions and get a clear understanding of what opportunities and challenges lay ahead as Impact Austin grows and matures. The board has some important decisions to make in the coming months, and your input helps inform our decision making process. Thanks for making your voices heard...we want to know what you are thinking!

New Leadership

As we build on the momentum we have gained as one of the most recognized grassroots philanthropic organizations in Central Texas, we are looking for interested and engaged women to help guide our organization to ensure our sustainability and commitment to our community. Members interested in serving on Impact Austin's Board of Directors are invited to attend an informational meeting at the home of Rebecca Powers.

**Thursday, February 5,
7:00-9:00pm**

**11107 Callanish Park
Drive 78750**

RSVP now for Discovery Day this Saturday-January 10!

Great speakers and excellent information--
**PLUS, we'll announce the number of members
for 2009!**

Don't miss this exciting informational event for our members and friends! Come hear presentations by community leaders on a wide range of topics including the Austin economy, affordable housing, arts, aging issues, conservation, and K-12 education.

Saturday, January 10, 2009, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. 7th Street

Free parking in church parking garage on Trinity Street between 7th and 8th Street.

Please RSVP to [Krista Ferguson](#) and plan to be there!

New Member Orientation Sign up now!

If you are new to Impact Austin and want to know more about our all-volunteer approach to philanthropy and how you can get involved, please put **Saturday, January 17, 2009**, from Noon-2pm on your calendar! Rebecca Powers, founder and president, will host a New Member Orientation Luncheon at her home. You will learn more about the culture of Impact Austin and how you can get involved. RSVP to [Pam Owens](#). We look forward to meeting you!

Focus Area Committee work to begin soon

More than 100 women have signed up to serve on Focus Area Committees (FACs). Our FACs are the teams responsible for evaluating non-profit organization Letters of Inquiry and Grant Applications--as well as choosing the finalists our members vote on to receive our funding. The five committee areas are: Culture, Education, Environment, Family and Health & Wellness.

FAC Chairs will send email messages in early January notifying women who have offered to serve on FACs of individual committee assignments; meetings begin the week of January 11. FACs will evaluate 118 Letters of Inquiry (LOI's) and collectively determine which will move forward to the Grant Application stage.

News coverage for College Forward American Statesman profiled their accomplishments during the holidays

If you read the Statesman over the holidays, you would have undoubtedly seen the extensive article on College Forward, one of our 2007 grant recipients. The article detailed the positive impact this inventive non-profit has had on assisting low-income high school students prepare for college.

Four Impact Austin members have been working with College Forward students to help them write essays for the Gates Foundation Millennium Scholarship, which provides tuition, room and board, a monthly stipend and the chance to study abroad. Students working on the extensive

RSVP to [Meeta Kothare](#)

If you cannot attend this session, but have an interest in serving on the Board, please send Meeta Kothare an email and she will be in touch with you.

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.*

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.*

application received some help from Lisa Fielder, executive director of College Forward, who put together an 8-hour program presented over three Saturdays, to teach the kids how to write good essays.

"The Gates Millennium Scholarship Program provides 100% of unmet education funding for 10 years (undergraduate through post-doctoral, at each students' option) for 1,000 low-income and minority students per year," says Fielder. "When we asked for help from Impact Austin, they were phenomenal - not only did they turn out every Saturday during the holidays, they also roped in husbands and college-age children. Their reward will be seeing some of the 29 kids who participated in the workshops march off to college and grad school without having to worry about finding the money to keep going. We're very grateful for their support."

If you missed the article and want to read it, visit [Statesman story](#).

KXAN provides end-of-year push for members

Kudos to KXAN, our local NBC affiliate. Out of the blue, they called on December 29 to ask if we were still seeking new members. To save the day, Sarah Swords leaped into action and arranged for the station to film footage of the Re-Boot program at Goodwill. The story aired at 6pm and provided details on both the Re-Boot program and how Impact Austin helped make it-and other worthy programs-possible. Great job, Sarah! We gained four new members in less than 24 hours as a result of the news segment. Hope everyone caught the story, but if you didn't you can still view it at [KXAN story](#).

Ode to 110 Percent

The holidays are over,
The memories made.

Impact Austin continues,
The excitement we'd never trade.

Addressing community needs,
FAC's start to thrive,

The community really needs us,
Ladies-we're changing lives!

We continue to evolve,
Bigger and better, this we know.

Your investment is appreciated,
110 percent helps us grow!

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