



# NEWS

For Extraordinary Members

## Mark Your Calendar

### Member Orientation

(open to all members interested in learning more about Impact Austin and member engagement)

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Liz Fitzgerald's Home

Email Liz for details and to RSVP:

[efitzgerald@impact-austin.org](mailto:efitzgerald@impact-austin.org)

### Town Hall Meeting

**Thursday, March 22, 2012**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

Dell Children's Hospital

Sig Auditorium

[Click Here to Register](#)

\*Members - please look for an email invitation next week.

### Annual Meeting

**Monday, June 11, 2012**

### Executive Director Message



Elizabeth Fitzgerald  
Executive Director

As I write this letter on Valentine's Day, I am thinking of how grateful I am for so many amazing people in my life.

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## Grants Update

### 29 Nonprofits Invited to Submit Grant Applications

Our 141 hardworking FAC members have been busy the past 3 weeks reading, researching and analyzing the 127 Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) that Impact Austin received this year. After much discussion and careful consideration, we have invited 29 organizations to submit full grant applications (see list by committee below). Grant applications are due on Feb 24th and the Focus Area Committees will be back to work reviewing those the first week of March.

Gratitude is defined: "Gratitude: thankfulness, gratefulness, or appreciation is a feeling, emotion or attitude in acknowledgment of a benefit that one has received or will receive."

I am grateful for the women of Impact Austin and the community partners that do astounding work in our community. I have received so much from the many one-on-one discussions with members, learning about their work, their families, and passion for the community.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Paramount's Literacy to Life program recently. This 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.

It is hard to describe the impact this performance had on the children, their teachers, and their families. The pride that these children had seeing THEIR work on stage was remarkable. Before the program began, the children were asked how many of them were writers and none of them raised their hands. After the performance, they were asked again and ALL of them raised their hands. This confidence and pride will carry into all their work and life. Knowing that they can do something special, and that their work is appreciated, makes a difference in the life of the children "in our backyard".

So thank you for all that you do to make Impact Austin the organization it is today. I am sincerely grateful!

Liz

## Member Engagement

### Volunteer Opportunities:

Contact Liz Fitzgerald at [efitzgerald@impact-austin.org](mailto:efitzgerald@impact-austin.org) for more information.

#### General:

- Videographer

#### Membership:

- Discovery Day Chair  
- Annual Meeting Chair  
- Impact Austin On the Move committee members  
- Volunteer Days committee members  
- Membership committee members

#### Marketing:



The Health & Wellness Committee invited six organizations to submit full grant applications.

### Culture:

- Anthropolos Arts
- Austin Classical Guitar Society
- Conspire Theatre
- Hispanic Alliance for the Performing Arts
- Project ClayPlay
- Theatre Action Project

### Education:

- AVANCE-Austin
- Breakthrough Austin
- Council on At-Risk Youth
- Round Rock ISD Education Foundation
- Texas School for the Deaf Foundation
- The BeHive Austin

### Environment:

- A Nurtured World
- Animal Trustees of Austin
- CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas
- Colorado River Foundation
- Ecology Action
- Westcave Preserve

### Family:

- GENaustin
- Kids in a New Groove
- Partnerships for Children
- Relief Nursery of Central Texas
- Seedling Foundation

- Print Publications
- Website Committee

**Technology:**

- Database Administration

**Connect with Us**

We invite you to visit us online at [www.impact-austin.org](http://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  **Linked in**

Follow us on 

View our videos on 

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."

**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

**Health and Wellness:**

- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area
- Easter Seals Central Texas
- Family Eldercare
- Front Steps
- My Healing Place
- Sustainable Food Center

## Impact Through Involvement

### Board of Directors Nomination Process

Do you like working with other smart, savvy women? Do you have skills that you would love to use for Impact Austin's benefit? Financial background, Nonprofit Board experience, Fundraising expertise, Technology experience, Legal knowledge or something else you would like to share?

We want to hear about you...or someone you know!

This is the time of year when we ask you to consider board service.

Click here for the nomination process and [The Board of Directors Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

Click here for the [Nomination Form](#).

Or, find these forms on our website at:  
<http://impact-austin.org/volunteer.php>.

Impact Austin will be adding four members to the board this year.

Nominations are due no later than March 15th, an application will be requested from chosen nominees and interviews will be scheduled on two Saturdays in April. The chosen members will be elected at the May meeting and will be introduced to the general membership at the annual meeting.

We ask if you are nominating another member, that you get her permission before making the nomination. You may also nominate yourself. We look forward to hearing from you!

Impact Austin Board of Directors

## Community Partner Spotlight

### Camp Fire USA Balcones Council

**Camp Fire Kids Plug into Nature**

Following Richard Louvre's 2005 novel "Last Child in the Woods", a handful of like-minded individuals came together to form the Children & Nature Network whose mission is to help build a movement to reconnect children, their families and their communities to nature - for

prudent risk-takers.

Continuous Improvement - Through feedback and other input, we are always improving.

human health and well-being, cognitive development, stronger community - and for the good of the planet. Often referred to as *Leave No Child Inside*, this growing movement strives to battle what Louvre refers to as "nature deficit disorder".



*Camp Fire Kids Unplugged* lays the foundation for environmental stewardship in current and future generations

In 2009, inspired by the *Leave No Child Inside* national movement, Camp Fire USA Balcones Council launched an innovative program in which parents and children learn about and enjoy the natural environment of Central Texas together. *Camp Fire Kids Unplugged* provides families the opportunity to develop outdoor skills and participate in environmental service projects.

In 2011 Impact Austin's generous grant allowed Camp Fire USA Balcones Council to start seven new *Camp Fire Kids Unplugged* clubs in Del Valle, in southeast Travis County with more than 81% of the students living in low income families. These clubs are divided between four different Del Valle elementary schools (Baty, Smith, Del Valle and Hillcrest), with eight families in each club. Camp Fire collaborated with the principals and parent/community liaisons in the Del Valle Elementary Schools to identify families to participate in the *Camp Fire Kids Unplugged* program.

The clubs meet monthly for outings, projects, or training. In addition, the clubs are encouraged to participate in Camp Fire's council events and seasonal camp outs.





*Camp Fire Kids Unplugged* helps youth and families to connect to and respect our natural world and one another

According to Jessica Looney, who manages *Camp Fire Kids Unplugged*, the goal is to lay the foundation for environmental stewardship in current and future generations. "The future protection of the environment depends on today's children connecting with nature through meaningful outdoor experiences," says Ms. Looney. "Camp Fire Kids Unplugged strives to change the behavior of families by giving parents the skills to support their children's outdoor experiences. Parental involvement ensures that children's activities will be continued, the environment valued, and real impact gained."

This year's activities included:

- Insect Classification and hikes at McKinney Roughs, Metropolitan and Onion Creek parks,
- A trip to Fossil Fest at the Old Settler's Heritage Association,
- Planting gardens with the Texas Master Gardeners Association,
- Tours and activities at the Austin Nature and Science Center, Urban Roots, Texas Memorial Museum, LBJ Wildflower Center, and
- A MLK day of service at the Montopolis Greenbelt.

"The MLK Day of service had a striking impact with respect to how the youth relate to the environment. I was struck by the sense of urgency with which the children spoke about taking care of natural habitats and was inspired that they discovered a deeper connection to our ecosystem on their own."

The program's itinerary for spring 2012 includes:

- Fishing at Blanco State Park,
- Bird surveying & nature photos at Horsnby Bend,
- Hiking at Bunny Run Wildlife Preserve,
- Stargazing at McKinney Roughs,
- Rowing at Texas Rowing Center, and
- Geology exploration at Barton Springs.

Kerry Tate, a Camp Fire community partner, describes *Kids Unplugged* as "an acclaimed outdoor program for youth and families to connect to and respect our natural world and one another. Also notable, Camp Fire includes bilingual programming, openness toward traditional and non-traditional families alike, and a relationship to the Leave No Child Inside national movement."



Camp Fire Kids Unplugged!

To learn more about Camp Fire USA Balcones Council or to become a volunteer contact (512) 349-2111 or visit their website at [www.campfireusabalcones.org](http://www.campfireusabalcones.org).

## Discovery Day 2012

### Event Recap

The 6th annual Discovery Day was held at St. David's Church on January 7th and once again proved to be one of Impact Austin's signature events with nearly 200 in attendance. This day serves as a reminder to all of us that we are a thoughtful, learning organization. We learned from community leaders to enhance our knowledge of the critical issues impacting Central Texas. Attending were not only Impact Austin members, but guests of members interested in joining. When the day concluded, several continued the dialogue over lunch at a local restaurant.

New this year was an online survey via Survey Monkey to seek input for next year's Discovery Day and overall satisfaction. The survey results will help us for next year's planning. It is important to note that at least 90% of the respondents either completely agreed or agreed that (1) the event met their expectations (2) they left the event better prepared for IA's grant process (3) they had the opportunity to meet other IA members and network (4) the event was worth their time, and (5) they would recommend the event to others.



Girls Giving Grants announces Impact Austin's 2012 membership number in a flash mob!

We are starting to form next year's planning committee and are looking for volunteers to help with this very important project. If you are interested, please contact Liz Fitzgerald at [efitzgerald@impact-austin.org](mailto:efitzgerald@impact-austin.org).

## Girls Giving Grants

### G3 Grants Update

After reviewing 34 grant applications, G3 members selected five semi-finalists:

- The Christi Center
- Easter Seals
- BeHive Austin (formerly Heart House Austin)
- Any Baby Can
- Divine Canines

From these five semi-finalists, G3 members voted for Any Baby Can and The Christi Center to receive site visits. One of these two organizations will receive a \$5700 grant later this spring.

[Forward email](#)



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