



Impact Austin Newsletter

April 2007

Greetings!

This newsletter includes the following articles:

* Message From the President *Spring is in the Air! Time to Plant a Few Seeds and Nurture Some New Growth for Impact Austin *Mark Your Calendar! Impact Austin Annual Meeting *Spotlight on Community Voice Mail, 2005 Grant Recipient *2006 Grant Recipient: EmanciPET Fundraising Event *2007 Grants Update Site Visit Semi-Finalists! *Impact Austin in World News *Building Community...Creating Cultural Awareness...and, oh yes, Learning English

Message from the President



During high school in the early 70's, I studied hard and got good grades. I worked in my little farm town's homegrown version of a convenience store. Later, I flipped burgers at a hamburger stand to pay for clothes, entertainment and the gas that powered the (very old) Rambler I drove. Between school, homework, a part-time job and weekend social engagements, I didn't see how I could fit another activity into my routine. Community service wasn't a part of the culture in which I lived. The student council's canned food drive before Thanksgiving was the closest thing to community service I remember. I participated enthusiastically because the class that contributed the most canned goods got a special prize--not because I had any idea what these cans of vegetables, fruits and soups would mean to those who received them.

What would I have learned if I had started my philanthropic journey as a teenager? I don't have to look far for the answer because Girls Giving Grants (g3) gives me the chance to observe the process through my daughter's g3 participation. I

2007 Grants Update Site Visit Semi-Finalists!

Last month our five Focus Area Committees (FACs) received grant applications from the 25 non-profit organizations that were previously invited to submit their projects for consideration. Each FAC divided into subcommittees who were assigned responsibility for conducting research and analysis of one of the applications. In addition, our new Grant Review Finance Committee (GRFC) created a Financial Fitness Report for each applicant to help ensure that their finances met our requirements in terms of stability, reporting, etc. We are excited to announce that the teams have completed their work and have now selected 11 semi-finalists to proceed to the next phase of our process - site visits. Here's an alphabetical list by focus area of the organizations still being considered for one of this year's four \$104,000 grants:

CULTURE

- *Rude Mechanicals Theatre Collective
- *Salvage Vanguard Theater

EDUCATION

- *Breakthrough
- *College Forward

ENVIRONMENT

- *Ecology Action of Texas
- *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

FAMILY

can see a definite change in her. In a very natural way, Claire has learned to be a group leader; a mentor; a volunteer at a non-profit; a critical thinker; a team player; and best of all, a philanthropist! And, I know other g3 members have experienced the same growth that Claire has.

Here's to the next generation of female philanthropists. We are growing them in fine fashion! I am proud of their efforts to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Gratefully,
Rebecca Powers

**Spring is in the Air!
Time to Plant a Few Seeds and
Nurture Some New
Growth for Impact Austin**



Photographed above: Jeri Muhich, Gloria Stevens, Sally Byrom and Phylis Donelson at Grape Vine Market in 2006.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 24th at 6:30pm
WHERE: Grape Vine Market

7938 Great Northern Blvd

RSVP: dskinner@impact-austin.org

If you have a friend with whom you'd like to share the Impact Austin story, please bring them to Grape Vine Market on Tuesday, April 24th. Rebecca Powers and the Impact Austin board will be on hand to welcome you. Any new members who join Impact Austin this spring will have the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting on June 7, 2007, as guests. It's a great way for new members to get a sneak preview of how they'll be able to participate during next year's grant cycle. Grape Vine Market will provide wine, appetizers and desserts.

**Mark Your Calendar!
Impact Austin Annual Meeting**

- *Adoption Coalition of Texas
- *Partnerships for Austin Children in Crisis
- *Wonders & Worries

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- *Indigent Care Collaboration (ICC)
- *Services for the Elderly

Over the next two weeks, FAC and GRFC members will visit each of these organizations to see their operation and to conduct interviews with key representatives including the Executive Director, Program Manager, Board Members and Financial Representatives. Upon completion of these visits, the committees will meet one last time and choose the five Impact Austin 2007 Grant Finalists who will be presented for your vote at our Annual Meeting on June 7, 2007. Thanks to the FAC and GRFC members for their energy and commitment!

Here's a quote from a committee member that says it all:

"I think the Discovery Day sessions were a wonderful way to introduce the grant areas and Austin's needs. I get so much joy out of participating in Impact Austin, and I really like the women with whom I've worked on the FAC's both years I've been a member." Susan G.

Impact Austin in World News!

In March, a writer for the U.S. Dept. of State's USINFO, Carolee Walker, wrote an article about Impact Austin that was sent around the world! USINFO is a web-based product telling America's story to the world. As part of Women's History Month, Ms. Walker included Impact Austin in her article about women giving together in community. The USINFO stories are translated into multiple languages, and many US foreign service officers place these features in their local newspapers.



US INFO Article about Impact Austin

Girls Giving Grants Update and Important Dates



Photographed above are g3 members Brittany



DATE: Thursday, June 7, 2007
 TIME: 6:30pm-9:30pm
 LOCATION: St. David's Episcopal Church

304 E. 7th Street

Postcard invitation to be mailed at the end of April.

Spotlight on Community Voice Mail, 2005 Grant Recipient



The Community Voice Mail (CVM) program is hosted and supported by the Austin Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center. CVM's primary goal is to provide people without a phone with a voice mail box—a simple communication tool that most of us take for granted. Clients using CVM include the homeless, the working poor, the formerly incarcerated, Katrina survivors, individuals who have been diagnosed with mental and physical challenges, parents and their school age children, and women escaping domestic violence. CVM allows clients to be in touch with the social services they need. It offers a way for individuals to get back into the mainstream of society.

Excerpted from the CVM Newsletter:

Jayce Clark has a unique and special story. He had been homeless on and off since late 1993, until he met some special people at the City of Austin Community Health Centers and the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). Jayce had always been an active volunteer in his church and local soup kitchens even as he lived in his camp. One day while cleaning up the kitchen, Jayce met a woman who invited him to receive medical care at a community health center, and he began taking care of his physical and emotional health. He also visited the ARCH and received access to some important social services. It was here that Mr. Clark accessed CVM which gave potential employers a place to get in contact with him. Mr. Clark was soon hired by Parkhills Baptist

Burch, Emily Bowman and Mara Weidman presenting grant semi-finalist.

Girls Giving Grants proudly announces its two finalists for this year's grant:

- [The Center for Child Protection](#)
- [EmanciPET](#)

The grant recipient will be announced later in April. Please join the g3 members at the check presentation ceremony as they celebrate the successful conclusion of this year's grant cycle:

- DATE: Tuesday, May 22nd
- TIME: 2:30pm-3:00pm
- LOCATION: City Hall, Downtown Austin

Do you have a daughter or know someone who has a daughter (currently in grades 7-11) who might be interested in participating in g3? Our first recruiting kick-off for the 2007-2008 school year is next month, and we'd love to have you to join us:

- DATE: Sunday, May 20th
- TIME: 2:00-3:00pm
- LOCATION: Velocity Electronics, 2208 Energy Drive, Austin, TX 78758
- RSVP: Dina Mavridis
dmavridis@girlsgivinggrants.org

Girls Giving Grants is looking for one more advisor. Do you know a woman currently in college or out in the workforce who is a perfect role model for teenage girls and wants to get involved in a worthwhile philanthropic organization? Please send Dina Mavridis an email at the address above with the name of a potential candidate.

Building Community . . . Creating Cultural Awareness . . . and, oh yes, Learning English

Impact Austin member Kathryn Burch has had first hand experience with Literacy Austin. Literacy Austin's outreach program supported in part by the Impact Austin grant awarded in June of 2006, became important in her work as a Grisham Middle School Parent Support Specialist.

Kathryn stated, "The partnership with Literacy Austin, helped Grisham Middle School to successfully create an English as a Second Language program for the parents of our students. The program was designed around the concept of using resources within our school community to build a stronger community, thereby ensuring greater success among our students."

Eleven English speaking parents completed Literacy Austin's extensive tutor training in both ESL (English as a Second Language) and ABE (Adult Basic Education). Literacy Austin provided the foundation and tools to build a curriculum

Church as a custodian and was later promoted to head of maintenance. Mr. Clark was able to move into supportive housing at Spring Terrace with the help of his ARCH caseworker. Mr. Clark has been living at Spring Terrace for four months now, he still volunteers with his church, and continues to enjoy the respect of staff at Parkhills for his outstanding work as head of maintenance.

To learn more about the CVM program, go to:

[Community Voice Mail](#)

2006 Grant Recipient: EmanciPET Fundraising Event

EmanciPET is hosting a fundraising event on Saturday, April 28th. The event, "Dogs on the Catwalk" is being held at Vicci in the Warehouse District between 7:00pm-9:00pm. Proceeds will benefit the spay and neuter efforts of EmanciPET.

For more information, details, and to purchase tickets, go to: [Dogs on the Catwalk](#)

teaching English while building relationships and community.

Kathryn explained, "With our tutors in place, we approached our target group of non- or limited- English speaking parents. We currently have 24 adults participating in 6 different classes ranging from Level 1 (the lowest level of proficiency) to Level 5 (conversational English). Each is a parent or family member of a student at Grisham or the Westwood Learning Community."

The benefits of the ESL classes are felt well beyond teaching language. Kathryn described, "Parents who had never entered the school building are now attending classes twice a week in the very school their children attend! Many of the parents have at-risk students and have previously found themselves at school only under difficult circumstances. As part of the community-based curriculum designed by our tutors, the students "tour" the school, meet faculty, review and discuss school information, and interact with each other in a casual and positive manner."

The partnership with Literacy Austin has made a difference at Grisham Middle School. According to Kathryn, "The ripple effects of the community- based language learning program are immeasurable. English classes for parents have given Grisham the opportunity to embrace the richness and diversity of our many cultures, while working to ensure the success of our children by creating community among our families."

Dina Mavridis, Director of Marketing Communications
Impact Austin

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