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NEWS

For Extraordinary Members



From Our Founder



Dear Members,

As I write this message, I am full of appreciation and gratitude. I hold dear the lessons I've learned from each of you as I've made this journey...very clumsily at times. You have been patient and forgiving, even when I didn't deserve it. Your loyalty boosted my spirits and encouraged me to forge ahead. You may have doubted my wisdom at times, but you never questioned my motives. You laughed when that was the right thing to do. You hugged me when words couldn't help. You let me skin my knees when I needed to learn a lesson, and you were there to pick me up when I fell.

Now it's time to turn the page and let Impact Austin spread its wings.

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Membership Update

542! Amazing but True!

In mid-December, after completing another coffee season in a challenging economy, our goal of 500 members seemed out of reach. We turned to our members, friends, neighbors, and the media for help. In a stunning turn of events, in the last two weeks of 2010, we exceeded not only our goals but our wildest dreams. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to achieve our phenomenal membership total of 542 women. Most importantly to each of our 2011 members, thank you for investing in our mission to effect positive change and bring new resources to the community.

In June 2011, Impact Austin will fund five \$108,400 grants. A record total of \$542,000 will be put to work by our 2011 Community Partners to directly impact the needs of Central Texas.

Others will lead us into the future, and that feels good and right. I can hardly wait to see what unfolds...from my seat in the stands with pom poms ready to cheer you on!

With overflowing appreciation and gratitude...

- Rebecca Powers

Mark Your Calendar

Board Interest Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Time & Location: TBD

Please look for more details in the February newsletter

Annual Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2011

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Congregation Agudas Achim

7300 Hart Lane

Austin, TX 78731

Member Spotlight

by Cynthia Hoff



Rebecca Powers and I have known each other for years. We taught religious education together when our kids were small and saw each other at her Pampered Chef parties. We lost touch as our kids got older and went to different schools, but that all changed the day she walked into Chico's where I was working. It was awesome to see her again! I asked her what was going on in her

Community Partner Spotlight

Badgerdog Literary Publishing

Selected as a 2010 Community Partner in the "Culture" category, Badgerdog Literary Publishing has been hard at work implementing "It's Elementary! Bringing the Literary Arts to East Austin." This fall, Badgerdog is sending practicing professional writers into the eight elementary schools that flow into Eastside Memorial High School, serving more than 200 students. Already, participating AISD students are receiving deserved accolades as they learn to stretch their imaginations and blossom as writers.

Here are some of the highlights from this past fall:

- During this year's Texas Book Festival, Badgerdog students read their original work before an audience under the shadow of the Texas Capitol. The reading began with a welcome from News 8 Austin anchor Crestina Chavez, who turned the show over to guest speaker and Texas author, Carmen Tafolla, who reminded students they don't have to grow up in the glitz of New York or Los Angeles to become writers, they only have to believe in themselves and the value of their individual experiences.
- Fourth graders in two Badgerdog workshops at Sanchez Elementary School, and three workshops at Zavala Elementary visited the Blanton Museum this past fall, many of them for the very first time. Badgerdog staff and instructors led students in mini writing lessons designed around specific works in the galleries.
- Badgerdog's annual Fall Poetry contest received over 100 submissions from students across Badgerdog's education programs. It was Badgerdog's biggest contest to date, and all three finalists were students from fourth-grade classrooms participating in the "It's Elementary!" project. (The contest was also open to middle- and high-school students.) The winner was Rey Casas from Zavala Elementary. Rey's poem, aptly titled "Fall," (see below) was printed and distributed throughout Austin and was also republished in the *Austin American-Statesman's* weekly Spanish publication, *jahora si!* In addition, Rey's accomplishment was specifically lauded by AISD Superintendent Dr. Meria Carstarphen during her extended cabinet meeting in early December.

life and she told me about Impact Austin. I was so impressed with her story and the idea of collective giving, that I wrote her a check at once! That was 6 years ago and I am still a devoted and active member. I have even been so dedicated that I paid twice one year!

I have served on FAC committees several times and this year will co-chair the Culture Committee with Sheryl Brown. I have become involved with non-profits as a result of being a member of Impact Austin, and that has been rewarding! There are so many reasons I love being a member of Impact Austin; realizing the needs in our own community, making a difference in the life of a non-profit, the relationships with the amazing women who make up this organization, but mostly I love that the process is fair and just - every woman has a voice. Going through the Impact Austin grant application process makes any non-profit better prepared for future funding endeavors, whether or not that non-profit ultimately receives an Impact Austin grant.

I look forward to meeting new members and seeing familiar faces at the Culture Committee kick-off meeting later this week!

NEW for FY2011 -We want to know who your favorite Community Partner is and why. The members of Impact Austin would love to hear from you!

To share your story, please email Laura Green at newsletter@impact-austin.org

Connect with Us

We invite you to visit us online at 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 

Fall



Every fall, I have hot cocoa and mushy s'mores.
 Fall reminds me of warm, snug times. Sometimes
 I run outside and do chores. I rake the leaves.
 My mom is happy until I jump in! I love when
 the leaves float around like people in the water
 falling down slowly. Sometimes my brother and I
 play leaf tag. When it is really windy, we play under
 the big trees, and if a leaf touches you, you are it.
 But most of all, I think of fall as a time when my family
 can get together.

REY CASAS, ZAVALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Fall" is the winning poem from Badgerdog's creative writing workshops' 2010 fall poem contest. The nonprofit Badgerdog Literary Publishing places professional writers in Austin-area schools and publishes student work biannually.

Your support makes all the difference.

www.badgerdog.org/donate



Grants Update

FAC Process Begins This Week

We received 94 Letters of Inquiry from the local nonprofit community this year. Now it's time for the Focus Area Committees to begin their review and deliberation of these funding requests. Over 115 members have signed up to participate on the five committees, and we look forward to learning who this year's finalists will be in early May.

View our profile on [LinkedIn](#)

And don't forget to check out [Rebecca's Blog](#)

New YouTube Channel

We created a new Impact Austin YouTube channel. Please check out our [inaugural video](#) - Brett Barnes singing at the 2011 Discovery Day (shot by Kathy Hargrave from the Marketing Committee). And be sure to check back. More great videos will be added!

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 prudent risk-takers.



The 2011 Focus Area Committee leaders attended an FAC training

CEO Transition Update

CEO Transition is Well Underway

The Impact Austin Board of Directors has hired [InterSource](#), a highly experienced executive recruitment and consulting firm based in Austin. InterSource has quickly gone to work advising the CEO Transition Committee on best practices. Based on this advice, our aim is to hire an Interim Executive Director before the end of January and a permanent Executive Director over the next several months. After consulting with InterSource and understanding best practices, the CEO Transition Committee has re-formed and currently consists of board members Paula Klante, Diane McCartney, Lorene Philips, and general members Lauren Paver and Nancy Word.

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

Thank you to members who made recommendations and referrals of potential candidates. Your support of this process is appreciated. If you have questions or comments please contact the CEO Transition Committee Chair, Diane McCartney, at dlimccartney@gmail.com or (512) 922-0274.

Discovery Day Recap

This Year's Event Draws Record Crowd!

Over 160 women registered for Discovery Day this year! As a thoughtful, learning organization, we take the opportunity each year to learn about issues affecting our community and ways that we can, either through our personal philanthropy or collectively, make a positive difference where we live, work and gather. Local experts from Central Texas addressed different issues in each of our Focus Areas.

For the second year in a row, Brett Barnes started the morning off by singing a song he wrote that announced our membership total to the attendees. The crowd went wild when Brett sang the words five-forty-two! Brett is currently the Director of Development and External Relations with LifeWorks, and he is also a professional singer. Click [HERE](#) to see the video of Brett's original performance posted through the new Impact Austin YouTube channel.

The session yielded relevant information and our members asked insightful questions. As one member noted on her comment card, "Loved that speakers were interconnected this year - a common thread seemed to run through every presentation - a very cohesive event". Plan to join us next January at our 2012 Discovery Day!



Jackie Mata, the 2011 Discovery Day Committee Chair, introduces Greg Hartman, President and CEO of University Medical Center Brackenridge, who spoke on medical education and research in Central Texas

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