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News

FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEMBERS

Upcoming Events

Board Interest Meeting

Monday, March 9
7pm - 9pm
Home of Debbie Johnson
1200 Barton Creek Blvd. #7
Austin, TX 78735
RSVP [Meeta Kothare](#)

Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, March 12
11:30am - 1:00pm
or
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Congregation Agudas Achim
Dell Jewish Community Campus
7300 Hart Lane
Austin, TX 78731
RSVP [Kathy Gray](#)

Grape Vine Market Coffee

April 27, 2009
6:30pm to 8:30pm
7936 Great Northern Blvd
Austin, TX 78757
Invite a friend!

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 9
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Congregation Agudas Achim
Dell Jewish Community Campus
7300 Hart Lane
Austin, TX 78731

Grant Recipient Check Presentations

Friday, June 12
Time and location

A message from our Founder: Rebecca Powers



Bev Kearney, UT Women's Track and Field Head Coach, spoke at a luncheon I attended several days ago. Her message was powerful.... After a devastating car crash that left her paralyzed from the waist down, the doctors told her she'd never walk again. She decided that was not going to be true. She had many hours alone in the hospital to convince herself that she was going to walk. She pictured what it would look like. She talked about it to herself until she believed she could do it. Conventional wisdom suggested she wouldn't walk again. Doctors with years of experience told her that, too. Even the nurses were worried that she was delusional because the odds weren't in her favor at all. But, Bev chose not to listen to those who said 'you can't' or 'you won't'. In her words, "my circumstances don't define who I am or what I can do." Today, Bev is walking with a cane, and it's a beautiful thing!

I have the same belief system that Bev Kearney does when it comes to Impact Austin. We could face seemingly insurmountable odds keeping our membership at 500+ this coming year--if we choose to believe that. Several members, other funders in the community, local nonprofits, even pundits on tv and friends alike have suggested to me that this will be the year Impact Austin fails to meet its membership goal. That is fatalistic thinking, and I will not accept that. According to Bev's way of thinking, "these circumstances don't define who we are or what we can do". Sure, we will lose members due to the economy, lost jobs and lower earnings realized on investments. We may lose an unprecedented number of members this year because of those issues. But, that doesn't mean there aren't 500+ women in Austin who are willing and able to invest in our mission. Please join with me in sharing our story with your friends and colleagues...making sure that every woman in Austin has an opportunity to learn about us. If we believe we can't meet our goal, we'll be right. If we believe we CAN, we'll succeed! I believe we can, and I hope you believe that, too!

TBD

Tell Us

What's your story?

We'd love to hear why you joined Impact Austin!

Share your experiences. Tell us what you like about being an Impact Austin member. How has your membership changed the way you view philanthropy? Are you volunteering with/donating money to non-profits you've learned about through your Impact Austin experience? How have you changed? What does your membership mean to you and what would you like others to know about Impact Austin?

To share your story, please email our editor, [Cathy Cabrera](#).

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.

News from the Front Lines: *Our Grants in Action*

Grrl Action, the Rude Mechanicals project funded by IA in 2007, is proud to present Grrl Wrap 2009, a week-long festival showcasing art works by teenage girls. Participants create long-term projects in a variety of artistic media, such as sculpture, collage, documentary film, photography, playwriting, songwriting, costume design, and solo performance. Grrl Wrap kicks off on Saturday, April 18th with a reception from 2-4pm, and closes on April 25th with performances at The Off Center. For more information: www.grrlaction.org.

You may have heard about the recent drop in prices for recycled materials. Our 2008 grantee **Ecology Action** has responded to the challenging situation by creating new revenue streams that are not dependent upon commodity markets. You can help by bringing cardboard, white office paper, aluminum, and #2 plastic to the center. If you are a small business owner or coordinating an event, please consider utilizing Ecology Action's Business Pick Up or Event Recycling Programs for your all recycling needs. Details at: www.ecology-action.org.

Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, March 12

11:30am - 1pm* or 6:30pm - 8pm*

Congregation Agudas Achim
Dell Jewish Community Campus
7300 Hart Lane, Austin 78731

Please join Rebecca Powers and the Impact Austin Board of Directors for this very important meeting to learn:

- Summary of Dini Partners focus group results.
- Current governance and operational structures of our organization.
- Financial fitness of Impact Austin and plans for future sustainability.
- Q & A session.

This is your opportunity to understand more about Impact Austin-how we operate and what our priorities are. We hope to see you on March 12!

RSVP to [Kathy Gray](#) to reserve your spot now. Please indicate which session you plan to attend.

* Lunch/appetizers will be served.

Girls Giving Grants chooses its Site Visit Finalists!

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.



What a great year for G3! From an initial field of 54 grant applicants, G3 chose six semi-finalists:

Hospice Austin - Camp Braveheart for Youth

Center for Child Protection - Animal Assisted Therapy Program

The ARC of Capital Area, Inc. - Juvenile Justice Program

Austin Child Guidance Center - Kids in the Middle Program

Austin Capital City Business and Professional Women - Youth Power Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters - Sister-to-Sister Program

From this group of semi-finalists, G3 chose two finalists for site visits:

Hospice Austin and **Big Brothers Big Sisters**.

If you know a young woman (in grade 8 through grade 12) who might be interested in joining Girls Giving Grants, please have her contact [Dina Mavridis](#).

Budgeting for charity

This *Generation Y* member finds a way to make an impact



Impact Austin member Erin Guyer

Impossible doesn't seem to be in Erin Guyer's vocabulary. At 27, she's an unusual young woman who is determined to give back to her community. She's foregoing a nice dinner, a new pair of shoes or paying down a bit of her home mortgage to save \$40 a paycheck to join Impact Austin, a women's philanthropic group whose membership this year again tops 500 members.

"\$1,000 is not a trivial amount of money at this stage in my life," said Erin Guyer, an HR generalist with Temple Inland. "It was truly sobering to learn that the national average for giving was 3.2 percent of a person's income. It was hard for me to read that statistic and justify why I didn't have the expendable income to make this work."

Erin is just one of Impact Austin's members sifting through the 117 inquiry letters received this year from non-profits in Travis, Williamson, Hays and Bastrop counties. In late January, members of each Focus Area committee - culture, education, environment, family and health and wellness -- selected a combined total of 30 non-profits to move on and submit a full grant application.

"The best part about Impact Austin is the ownership that I feel in the grant giving process," said Guyer. "Through Impact Austin, I can see the faces of the non-profit and those they serve and I feel directly tied to the organizations. My voice is heard and I have a say in where these very impactful grants go."

Evaluating the grants and choosing finalists is done from March through May. In June, grant finalists make a final pitch to Impact Austin members at their annual meeting. Voting takes place that night and Impact Austin will again give away five \$102,000 grants - a record of \$2 million in its 6 years of existence.

"My \$40 per paycheck helped someone go to college, or get domestic abuse counseling, or learn more about their culture, or start a recycling center, or help those with disabilities gain technical work skills," said Guyer. "I didn't think that my small contribution could make such a difference. I am an ordinary young woman who, through Impact Austin, gets to make an extraordinary impact in my community."

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