



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



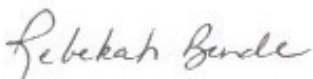
Dear Members and Friends:

Impact Austin's fiscal 2015 was a banner year for the organization and our community. We hit the impressive milestone of granting \$5 million to local nonprofits since inception, and in 2015 alone we gave \$450,000 to six Community

Partners. Additionally, we launched the Catalyst Grant, an innovative new grant designed to support infrastructure development for local nonprofits.

Impact Austin's youth initiative, Girls Giving Grants, celebrated its tenth anniversary and is thriving as a platform for young women to learn about and practice philanthropy.

This year, 108 of you participated on Focus Area Committees, and many of you helped to keep our organization strong through working on various operational committees. Thank you for your investment—both your time and financial support—all of which enabled Impact Austin to continue to make a meaningful impact on our Central Texas community.



Rebekah Bonde  
President, Board of Directors

## 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Rebekah Bonde**, *President*

**Lorene Phillips**,  
*Immediate Past President*

**Diane McCartney**, *Vice President*

**Valerie Kirk**, *Treasurer*

**Sharon Francia**, *Secretary*

**Lisa Allen**, *Director*

**Lisa Apfelberg**, *Director*

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**Laura Kane**, *Director*

**Sara Pantin**, *Director*

**Jacqueline Rixen**, *Director*

## 2015 COMMITTEE CABINET

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*Executive Director*

**Elizabeth Frisch**, *Development Chair*

**Valerie Kirk**, *Executive Administration*

**Mary McGovern**,  
*Executive Administration*

**Connie Lawyer**, *Grants Chair*

**Laura Green**,  
*Marketing/Communications Chair*

**Val Colbourn**,  
*Philanthropy Education Co-Chair*

**Holly Moore**,  
*Philanthropy Education Co-Chair*

**Rebecca Hesson**, *Technology Chair*

**Betsy Blair**, *Volunteer Management Co-Chair*

**Melissa Gray**,  
*Volunteer Management Co-Chair*

**Melynda Caudle**, *Membership Chair*

**Dina Mavridis**, *Girls Giving Grants Chair*

## 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.*



## 2015 GRANT MAKING

For the 2015 fiscal year, the members of Impact Austin awarded five grants of \$80,000 each to the following Austin-area nonprofits: VSA Texas, Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center, Council on At-Risk Youth, Drive a Senior, and Catholic Charities of Central Texas. In addition, we awarded our first ever “Catalyst Grant” of \$50,000 to the Texas Advocacy Project. Since our founding in 2003, Impact Austin has distributed over \$5,000,000, bettering the lives of tens of thousands of Central Texans.

## WHAT'S NEW: CATALYST GRANT

Historically, Impact Austin grants have funded our local nonprofits' new programs or the expansion of existing programs. While we continue to support these important endeavors, nonprofits have told us how much they need funds to support the ongoing operations of their organizations. Therefore, in 2015 we created a brand new type of grant, the Catalyst Grant, which is designed to strengthen or grow a nonprofit organization's infrastructure in order to improve its future performance, impact and sustainability. In its pilot year, this special grant was made available to nonprofit organizations that previously achieved finalist status during Impact Austin's grant review process.

## GIRLS GIVING GRANTS

Girls Giving Grants (g3) is the youth initiative of Impact Austin. The group is made up of young philanthropists who are learning to be generous and informed givers. The organization creates philanthropic opportunities for girls in the Austin area in grades 8-12 and provides up to 30 hours of community service credit. In 2015, g3 selected the Austin Diaper Bank as its community partner. The \$6,000 g3 grant is intended to increase awareness of diaper needs in the community in order to support the donation of 250,000 diapers to needy Austin area families.



## MEMBER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Impact Austin organized numerous fun and informative events for members throughout the year:

- Community coffees
- Orientation sessions for new members
- Workshop on social media
- Focus Area Committee meetings to review grant applications
- Volunteer Days, enabling members to work with Community Partners
- Discovery Day, featuring topics ranging from Early Education to Drought
- g3 10th anniversary celebration
- “Where Impact Intersects” session with Community Partners
- Annual Meeting, our biggest event and the venue where final grant recipients were selected

## 2015 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Catalyst | Texas Advocacy Project

Established in 1982 with a vision that no child should ever see one parent harm the other, Texas Advocacy Project's (the Project) services affect the lives of thousands of Texans each year. The Project offers a range of legal and advocacy services proven to break the cycle of violence. In 2014, they provided legal services in 4,066 cases, serving 9,718 Texans. The Project plans to use the inaugural Impact Austin Catalyst Grant to upgrade its technology platform. The organization will purchase laptops and cloud-based software allowing their legal staff to remain efficient even when their duties take them away from the office. This grant will expand The Project's capacity to handle and close more cases each year and improve the lives of the community it serves.



### Culture | VSA Texas

Recognized on a national level for excellent and groundbreaking programming, VSA Texas is specifically designed to serve per year 10,000 adults and children over age five who often face physical, social and attitudinal barriers to participation in the arts. Their goal is to provide support and training to the public, enhance personal growth, and offer everyone access to engaging and cutting edge creative work by people of all abilities. The Impact Austin grant will be used to fund the Body Shift program. Body Shift is VSA Texas' nationally unique program in mixed-ability dance led in partnership with Forklift Danceworks. Mixed-ability dance is part of both the disability culture and contemporary dance movements. By leading improvisational dance classes and creating performances where bodies of all kinds are embraced and celebrated, VSA Texas seeks to decrease the prejudice and misconceptions about disability in the field of dance and in society at large and improve the health and well-being of all of the participants.



### Education | Council on At-Risk Youth

Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) focuses on youth in the Austin Independent School District with severe disciplinary issues that often result in suspension from school, removal to the disciplinary alternative education program, or removal to the juvenile justice alternative education program. CARY's Youth Violence Prevention evidence-based program teaches these at-risk youth positive social skills, anger management, empathy, and character education. Students participating in the program show reduced behavioral incidents, improved attendance, and improved grades. The Impact Austin grant will enable the expansion of CARY's Youth Violence Prevention program to Paredes Middle School where the organization can serve an additional 100 at-risk youth.





### Environment | Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center

Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center (originally known as Westcave Preserve Corporation), established in 1976 to restore this spectacular Hill Country grotto, now encompasses a state-of-the-art Environmental Learning Center and an environmental education curriculum, which supports state-mandated learning objectives. Westcave is developing a Roadrunner Outdoor Adventure Bus program to eliminate one of the greatest barriers organizations face when taking kids on environmental outings: transportation. The Impact Austin funds will go towards the purchase and refurbishment of a used school bus, staff to develop the program and coordinate transportation availability, licensed and trained bus drivers, and development of a cross-organizational registration system. The bus will be used by Westcave as well as schools and other nonprofit organizations. Transportation scholarships will be available for underserved communities.



### Family | Catholic Charities of Central Texas

Catholic Charities of Central Texas works to strengthen families by meeting the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community. Their Immigration Legal Services program provides legal assistance at minimal cost to individuals and families eligible to apply for immigration benefits, with a focus on family reunification. Impact Austin funds will provide an additional staff member to help 150 more clients and will allow for the expansion of service hours from three to four weeks per month. The grant will also provide technology equipment to increase efficiency and eliminate paper files. With the support from Impact Austin, Catholic Charities will expand its reach by presenting workshops in surrounding counties where low cost immigration services are not available.



### Health & Wellness | Drive a Senior

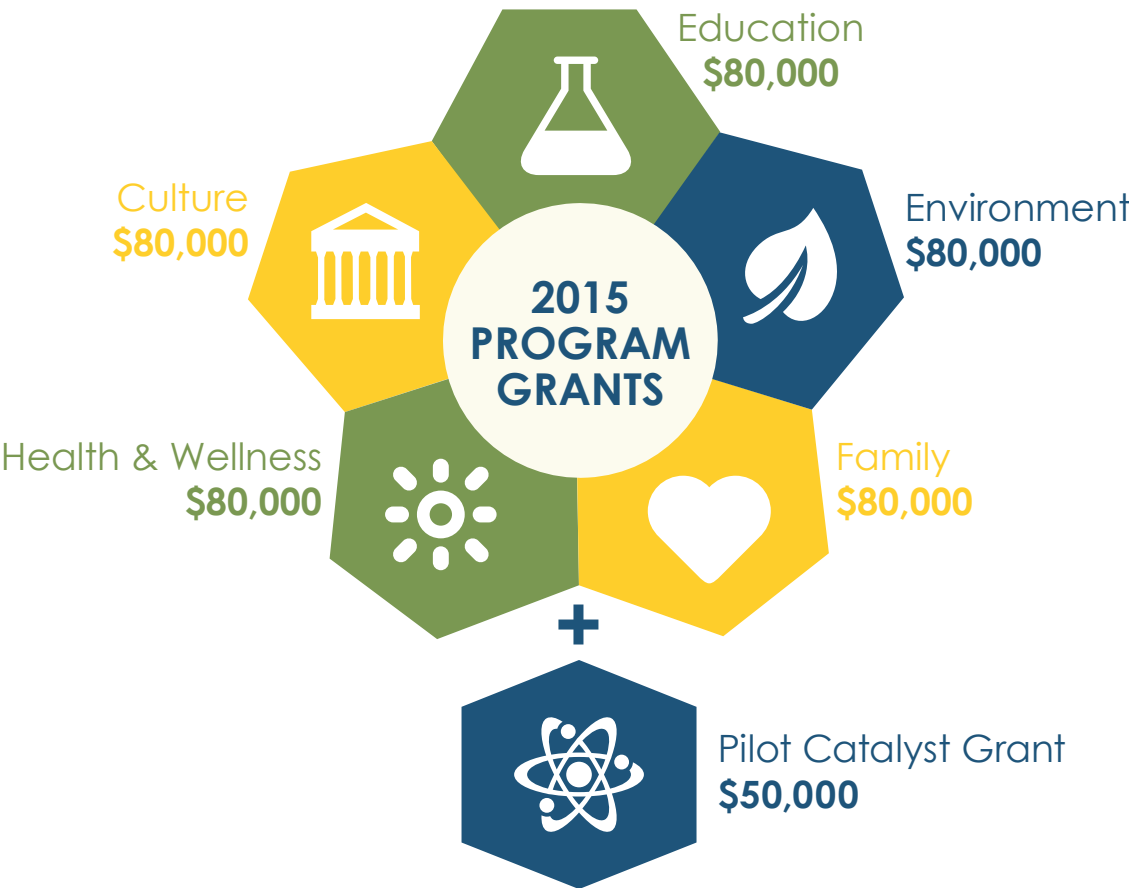
For over 20 years, Drive a Senior has helped seniors remain in their home environments longer and stay active in their community by addressing their need for mobility and companionship. The organization will use the Impact Austin grant funds to expand their already successful pilot for the Senior's Van Program using vans as well as individual rides to support transportation and socialization needs of home-bound seniors, reaching more under-served seniors in a more efficient way. The Van Program will take groups of seniors to common destinations, allowing the seniors to make friends and minimize their loneliness. This program will provide 2,300 van rides to 200 unique seniors during the grant period.





» \$450,000 «

Total Impact for 2015



Impact Austin’s fiscal year 2015 ran from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. An independent audit was conducted by Gindler, Chappell, Morrison, & Co. P.C. The complete audited financial statements and the auditor’s report can be found on our website at [www.impactaustin.org/news-events/categories/c/financial-reports](http://www.impactaustin.org/news-events/categories/c/financial-reports)

# 2015 GRANT OUTCOMES

The Community Partners below completed their grant programs as of May 2015.  
Their impact by the numbers is shown below:



## CREATIVE ACTION

- **113** students with juvenile detention history participated in the New Stages Youth Theatre Ensemble program
- **450** direct programming hours
- **95%** reported acquiring communication and conflict resolution skills



## ECOLOGY ACTION

- **3** trailheads established on land that was a former landfill/illegal dump site
- **45,000** people had access to trails
- **500** volunteers were engaged



## PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN

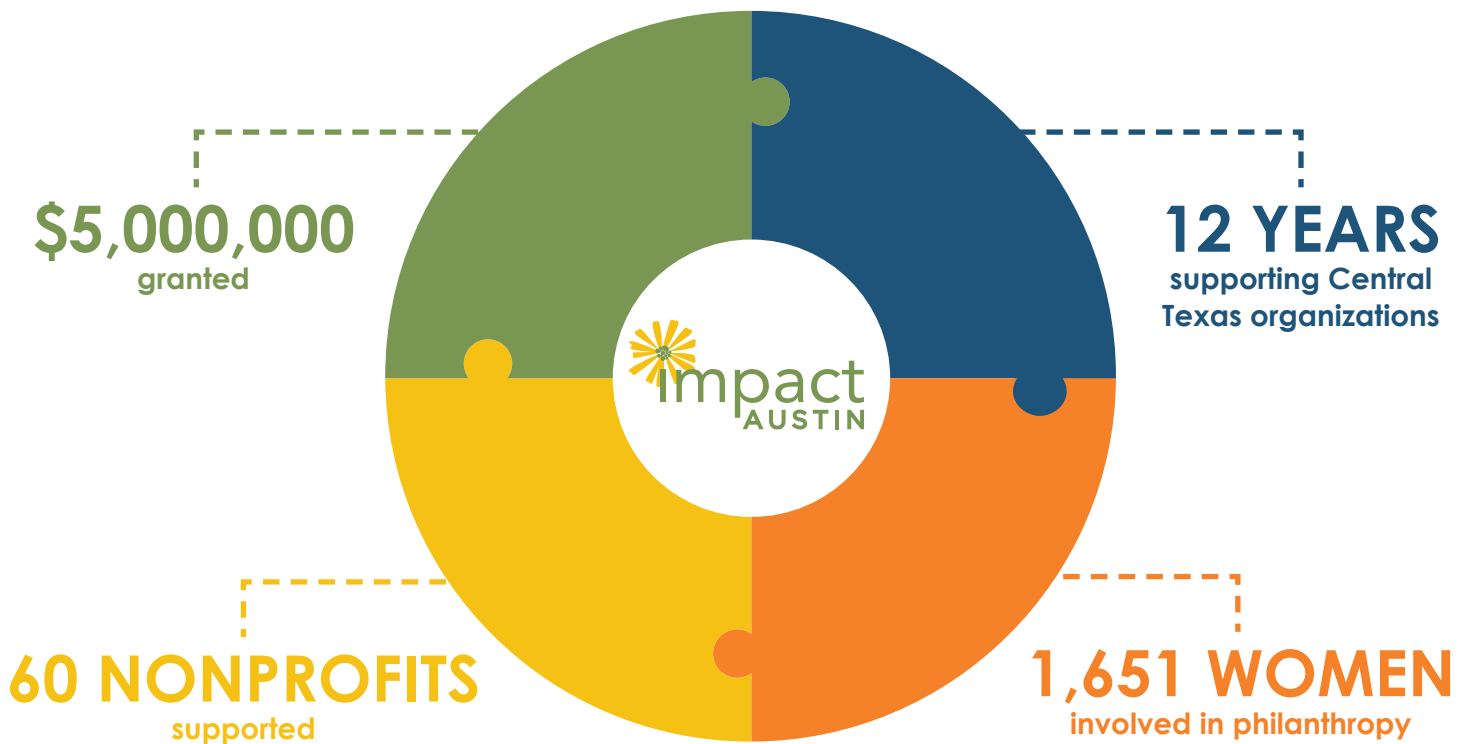
- **54** youth, ages 16-18 years old, in group/foster care were mentored in financial literacy



## HELPING HAND HOME FOR CHILDREN (G3 RECIPIENT)

- **68** needy children received a wardrobe of new clothing
- **80%** of children who completed treatment returned to a healthy family setting

## OUR CUMULATIVE IMPACT



### OUR VISION

*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.”*





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