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From Our Founder

**"She took the leap and built her wings on the way down."** -  
*Anonymous*



We have just started our seventh year, after taking that leap back in 2003. We didn't have all of the answers, but we had a vision of what could be. We have built a successful organization that other women want to replicate.

I am pleased to say that three of us from Impact Austin will travel to Laguna Beach, CA in September to attend the launch of Impact Giving Now. Jane Nolden and Manuela Haist, both Impact Austin members, shared our model with two friends who were visiting them in June, 2008. The friends got excited,

## Community Partner Spotlight

### Breakthrough in Action by Sarah Swords

On Thursday, July 23, I had the privilege of participating in Breakthrough's Visitors Day, held at the summer program site on the UT campus. The six week program, funded by Impact Austin in 2008, targets economically disadvantaged incoming seventh and eighth graders. The students eagerly come to campus to engage in an academically rigorous program of English, math, social studies and science, complete with two hours of nightly homework. Breakthrough's statistics show that the students' participation in this intensive program minimizes summer learning loss, improves academic achievement, and helps the students and their families cultivate a "college-going attitude".



*Breakthrough students showing off their program binders.*

Our day began with taking attendance. Each of the approximately 90 students introduced themselves by name, shared a quote from a

returned to California and immediately started planning. It is so satisfying to mentor other groups around the country as they build their collective giving organizations.

Do you have friends who might be interested in doing this in their home towns? We are happy to share our experiences and help them get started...it's another way we can make an impact! Let's talk...

### Mark Your Calendar

## The Grapevine Market Coffees

September 17th & October 29th at 6:30 pm

*Please plan to attend and bring a friend or two! An invitation will arrive in your email inbox on August 31.*

## Speaker Series

Monday October 19th, 7pm -9pm at Congregation Agudas Achim.

*Speakers currently being finalized. Stay tuned...*

### One Member's Story

## Denise Jackson on her Focus Area Committee Experience



My life has always been extremely busy, I run a company in Houston, a small furniture refinishing business in Wimberley, am secretary of our home owner's association, a wife, mother, and grandmother. I feel like I am running all the time and several times when I was pressed to work on Impact Austin tasks, I wondered how I could have gotten into one more thing. But every minute I have spent working on a Focus Area Committee (FAC) has been an awesome experience.

luminary such as Albert Einstein, or led the entire group in a camp-style cheer. I could feel the energy and commitment of the students and their teachers - I was ready to join right in! We moved on to hear a presentation by some students and teachers about the impact of the program on their lives. The students confirmed that their grades have improved, they get in trouble less frequently, and have developed a new sense of confidence and purpose in their lives. The summer teachers come to Breakthrough from local high schools and from colleges across the country. This year Breakthrough received a record 220 applications for 32 teaching spots in Austin!

A visitor seated next to me had been a "big sister" to Christy, one of the current teachers who had started in Breakthrough as a 7th grade student. As we walked together to a class to observe the Breakthrough program in action, she shared her astonishment at Christy's ability to speak to the crowd about her Breakthrough experience. She got tears in her eyes, saying "I hardly recognize her - she used to be so shy. Now she stands in front of a group and speaks with authority. She is a completely different person!" There was no doubt in either of our minds that Christy is well on her way to a bright future, thanks to Breakthrough.

## Membership Update

### It's Coffee Season

Fall is just around the corner. That means it is time to start thinking of friends who would make good members of Impact Austin. Be sure to invite them to attend one of the Grapevine Market Events on September 17th and October 29th at 6:30 p.m or an in home coffee.

If you are interested in hosting a coffee in your home, please contact Pam Owens at [powens@impact-austin.org](mailto:powens@impact-austin.org).

### Area Captain Program

The Membership Development Committee has created an Area Captain program to keep you informed and connected. Based on zip code/residential location, members will be designated an Area Captain to serve as a personal point of contact. Our Area Captains are experienced Impact Austin members - "cultural warriors" - who want to ensure you feel the same connection and community as when you first joined. Through personal calls or emails, Area Captains will provide details about upcoming trainings and events such as special speakers, FAC next steps, and volunteer opportunities. Opportunities to meet in smaller groups will be available through our Area Captains also if you wish to get to know other Impact Austin members.

In a few weeks, each 2010 member (those who have pledged or paid) will receive an introductory telephone call from her Area Captain. We respect each member's privacy and level of involvement, so contact with an Area Captain is completely optional. Please feel free to let your Area Captain know whether you are interested in this informational program.

As we sat around the table and discussed our FAC findings and made our choices, I felt that we were all conscious of our responsibility in impacting something important. Each person demonstrated a commitment to finding the right recipient for our grant and we all found opportunities to contribute to the organizations that did not get this grant this year.

I have never encountered so many strong leaders in one place. And the best thing I noticed was that no one argued. Each of us listened, questioned, then decided. It was an amazing process.

**What does your membership mean to you and what would you like others to know about Impact Austin? We'd love to hear your story!**

To share your story, please email Anne Webster at [awebster@impact-austin.org](mailto:awebster@impact-austin.org).

We hope you have enjoyed your summer and look forward to seeing you at upcoming events this fall. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering to serve as an Area Captain, please contact: Holly Reneau at [hreneau@impact-austin.org](mailto:hreneau@impact-austin.org).

## Impact Through Involvement

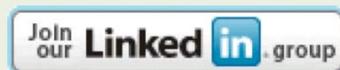
Impact Austin is an all volunteer organization, and we have several opportunities for you to help in the coming months. We hope you will consider lending your talents to our organization by volunteering for one or more of the opportunities below.

**Membership Mailing the First Week of September:** We can always use extra hands to assist with membership mailings. This generally includes folding letters, stuffing envelopes and affixing labels. If you are interested in helping with the Sept. mailing or any other mailing opportunity please contact Kathrine Weaver at [kweaver@impact-austin.org](mailto:kweaver@impact-austin.org)

**Girls Giving Grants (G3) Volunteers:** Girls Giving Grants, the youth initiative of Impact Austin, is always looking for adult volunteers to assist with its program. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Dina Mavridis at [dmavridis@impact-austin.org](mailto:dmavridis@impact-austin.org)

## Connecting with Impact Austin

We invite you to 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:



And don't forget to check out Rebecca's Blog at: <http://impactaustinblog.wordpress.com/>

## Our Founder's Impact

Rebecca Powers has been honored with one of the *Austin Business Journal's* most prestigious awards, the 2009 Profiles in Power: Central Texas Women of Influence Award. The 15th annual awards were presented on July 24 at a special reception in Austin, Texas.

The Profiles in Power awards honor Central Texas' most accomplished businesswomen for their significant business, community, and personal achievements. From 150 nominations, 25 exceptional women were chosen this year in five categories. Rebecca was a winner in the "Central Texas Standout" category,

which recognizes women who go beyond the call to devote time, energy and resources to improve their community.

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