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# News

FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEMBERS

## From Our Founder



"Somewhere over the rainbow..." seems like a place far away and impossible to reach. But, I met a woman with a beautiful heart last week who convinced me that we just have to 'save some space for magic', and it will take us there. This year, reaching our 500-member goal will take all of us sharing Impact Austin with everyone we know. I believe we can do it...and I know you believe it, too.

"...skies are blue!"

-Rebecca Powers,  
Founder and CEO

## Mark Your Calendar

### Discovery Day

*(educational forum for members to learn about current issues and*

## SAVE THE DATE!

Guest speakers and excellent information--PLUS, we'll announce our 2010 membership attainment!

### Discovery Day

Saturday, January 9, 2010

8:30am - 12:45pm

St. David's Episcopal Church

301 E. 8th Street

Austin, TX 78701

[\(Map\)](#)

Don't miss this exciting informational event for our members and friends! Come hear presentations by community leaders on a wide range of topics, including the Austin economy, culture and the arts, water...in ways you've not imagined, mental health issues that affect families, healthcare reform and solving the K-12 education equation.

## Membership Update

### A Call to Arms! We need your help!

We have all experienced the economic downturn over the past year. Now the economy is affecting Impact Austin. This year recruiting has been particularly challenging. Currently the number of women who have committed to Impact Austin for 2010 is about 40 fewer than we had this time last year.

We can't emphasize enough that Impact Austin needs your help to reach our goal of 500 members! If you know someone who should be introduced to Impact Austin, please invite her to a coffee. The coffee schedule is listed in the **Mark Your Calendar** section of this newsletter and on our website. If attending a coffee is not ideal for

*trends in each focus area)*

Saturday, January 9,  
8:30am-12:45pm

Location: St. David's Episcopal  
Church

301 E. 8th Street  
Austin, TX 78701

### In-Home Coffees

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 10am  
(78759)

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7pm  
(78751)

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 7pm  
(78703)

Thursday, Dec. 10, 6pm  
(78746)

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7pm  
(78759)

Thursday, Dec. 17, 7pm  
(78759)

For more information or to  
RSVP, please contact Becky  
Griner at: [bgriner@impact-  
austin.org](mailto:bgriner@impact-austin.org)

### Member Orientation

*(for current and new members who  
want to learn more about Impact  
Austin)*

Monday, December 14,  
7:00-8:30pm

Location: Rebecca Powers'  
home

11107 Callanish Park Drive,  
Austin, TX 78750

RSVP: [bgriner@impact-  
austin.org](mailto:bgriner@impact-austin.org)

### Focus Area Committee (FAC) Orientation

*(for members who plan to  
participate on an FAC this  
upcoming year and have not  
participated on an FAC in the past)*

Tuesday, December 8,  
6:00-7:30pm

Location: The Commons Room at  
Laura's Library  
9411 Bee Cave Road, Austin,  
Texas 78733

Wednesday, January 6,  
6:00-7:30pm

Location: The Gathering Room at  
Westbank Library  
1309 Westbank Dr, Austin, TX  
78746

your friend, please contact Becky Griner at [bgriner@impact-austin.org](mailto:bgriner@impact-austin.org) and we will find an alternative method of sharing the Impact Austin story.

Our goal is to spread awareness so that we can reach those who can and will join us in our mission for next year. The nonprofit community and the people it serves are counting on us. With your help, we are confident that we will be able reach our membership goal and put our \$500,000 to work in the community in 2010.

## Now playing on Facebook

We invite you to view and share a series of short video snippets from sixteen members sharing their Impact Austin experience. Launched mid-November, this video series will continue nearly daily through December. To receive them, become a FAN of our Impact Austin [Facebook](#) page and then share with your friends to recruit as members.

Questions about Impact Austin on Facebook? Contact Susan Blount, [sblount@impact-austin.org](mailto:sblount@impact-austin.org).



In the midst of everyone's thoughtful reflections on their Impact Austin experience, mother/daughter team Nancy and Emily Word reminded us of the fun!

## Community Partner Spotlight

### Urban Roots Update

Urban Roots, the program of YouthLaunch funded in June 2009, has been busy this fall, gearing up for a much larger program. They will expand to over three acres of farmland this summer, allowing them to hire 24 first-year farm interns to join the six returning interns. Urban Roots is accepting applications for young people ages 14-17 who want to learn organic farming and serve their community.

Thursday, January 7,  
6:00-7:30pm  
Location: St. Matthew's Episcopal  
Church, 8134 Mesa Drive, Austin,  
TX 78759

RSVP: [bblair@impact-austin.org](mailto:bblair@impact-austin.org)

## One Member's Story

by Melynda Caudle



I first learned about IA from two friends for whom I have tremendous respect - for the way they operate in the world in both their professional and personal lives. They told me that I need to come to a "coffee" to hear about the great things that IA was helping to make happen. I was heartened to hear the story of the XY Zone. I thought of the personal losses in my own family that might have been avoided if there had been a strong XY Zone program available. I pulled my checkbook out and started writing the check. I admit that I did so with the caveat that I would not be able to give much time to the organization since I had just bought a business and it was taking up most of my waking and sleeping moments!

Over that next year I came to realize that you make time for the really important things in your life and I began to volunteer in small ways with the organization. Each June was such a wonderful experience - learning more about non-profit needs in Austin and feeling the power of creating change with my money and my vote. I am now an IA evangelist - telling women I meet about the experience they also could have to take \$1,000 and turn it into \$500,000. I've been honored to be asked to serve on the board and help lead the organization through its next set of challenges. Of all of the activities in my life, none gives me more pride and a sense of really making a difference than Impact Austin. Ask me - I'll tell you more!

**What does your membership mean to you and what would you like**



Urban Roots youth, showing off their produce

Urban Roots has also started a 40-member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program which community members can join for a fee to get a weekly assortment of fresh produce from the farm. The larger farm will allow Urban Roots to donate even more fresh food to local hunger-relief organizations.

Urban Roots will be on full display from December 5th - 12th during Edible Austin magazine's "Eat Local Week". Over 60 local restaurants and markets will feature locally-sourced menu items and products, with a portion of their sales benefiting Urban Roots. The week's events will include the "Urban Farm Bike Tour", the "Fine Food Art Gallery Night", and a screening of the movie "Fresh" at the Paramount.

The Urban Roots program gives young people a chance to grow in new ways. Chris, an initially shy, hesitant high school student, eventually became confident enough to walk around the farmer's market, promoting the produce and the program. When asked if he had accomplished the personal goals he had set at the beginning of the program he said, "I came far. I feel like I can talk to anybody."

For more information go to [www.youthlaunch.org](http://www.youthlaunch.org).

## Ballet East Dance Company Update

Students in the new Eastside Memorial Dance Academy look forward to performing for the first time on December 12, 2009. This program was proposed by Ballet East Dance Company and funded by Impact Austin in June of 2009. The Eastside Dance Academy provides top-level instructors in classical, contemporary, folkloric, hip-hop, and Broadway dance styles to students at the former Johnston (now Eastside Memorial) High School. While encouraging arts appreciation and understanding, the program supports students in valuing themselves, acquiring discipline, and staying in school. Ninety students have enrolled in dance classes at the Academy, and additional classes have asked for instruction, bringing the total number to 170 students.

**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)

**Sweet Charity Day**

**Give Back While You Shop!**

Don't miss out on a great day of shopping and giving back! On Dec. 9th Sweet Charity, located in the 26 Doors Shopping Center on 38th Street, will donate 25% of your total pre-tax purchase to Impact Austin. Be sure to tell them Impact Austin is your charity of choice at check-out.

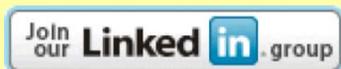
**In the News**



Rebecca Powers, founder and CEO of Impact Austin, was recently the cover story of austinwoman Magazine. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

**Connect with Us**

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 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.

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To accomplish the program's goal of exposing students to professional dance, 30 students attended the touring show of television's "So You Think You Can Dance." The students already knew the names of many performers, "but seeing a big stage show was more exciting than I ever imagined," one student reported. In addition, choreographer and virtuoso dancer Hope Boykin from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater taught two master classes in October and talked to the students about her life and work.

Two students share their thoughts about a character ballet for two girls and a boy set to traditional music from the state of Chiapas, Mexico. "I like this piece," says Rochell, a ninth-grader, "because we two girls show we can be strong." "That's true," says Jorge, also a ninth-grader. "I like these girls, but I chase one and the other without thinking, and they both leave me. They break my heart!"

The Eastside Dance Academy presents its debut performance December 12 at 7 p.m. at Eastside Memorial High School, 1012 Arthur Stiles Road.

For more information go to [www.balleteast.org](http://www.balleteast.org)



Ballet East Dance Company students in action

**Grants Update**

**Join an Impact Austin Focus Area Committee/Sign-up Concludes December 7!**

Are you interested in learning about Impact Austin's grant giving process and knowing more about the various nonprofit organizations serving the needs of the Austin community? If so, consider participating on a Focus Area Committee.

**What is a Focus Area Committee (FAC)?** FACs are the committees

**Making philanthropy accessible.**  
Through high-impact grant making, we engage, develop and inspire women to effect positive change.

## 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.

responsible for reviewing Impact Austin grant applications and choosing the finalists our members vote on to receive funding. There are five committees, one for each of the Impact Austin Funding areas: Culture, Education, Environment, Family, and Health & Wellness.

**What is involved in participating on a FAC?** Participation requires a time commitment of approximately 40-50 hours between mid-January and mid-May. Time will be spent attending committee meetings, analyzing applications and doing research, meeting with subcommittee members, attending site visits, and helping prepare finalists for the annual meeting.

**How will I know how to evaluate a grant?** One of Impact Austin's key objectives is to educate women about grant giving and philanthropy. FAC chairs, liaisons and grant review finance committee members provide just-in-time training during committee meetings on all aspects of the grant evaluation process.

**Is a FAC right for me?** While there is no requirement to serve on a FAC, many of Impact Austin's members find FAC participation to be a challenging and rewarding experience. It's a wonderful way to learn about community needs and form lasting friendships with an incredible group of women.

**What is the sign-up process?** Completion of the [FAC Information Form](#) is a requirement to participate on a committee. Carefully read and respond to the questions in the form in order to sign-up. The deadline for completing the form is midnight December 7.

## Recap of the 5th Annual Nonprofit Workshop

Impact Austin held its fifth annual workshop for Austin area non-profits on November 11th at the Goodwill Community Center. Sixty-seven representatives of local non-profits learned about our grant eligibility guidelines; the FAC review and selection process; and tips for preparing the most competitive application possible. GENAustin's Executive Director, Julia Cuba, also spoke about her agency's experience as an Impact Austin applicant and their success in becoming one of our 2009 Community Partners.

The final segment of the workshop included table discussions facilitated by Impact Austin members who have led a Focus Area Committee. These small group discussions have become the most valuable aspect of the workshop to the attendees. They allow the non-profits to ask questions in a more intimate setting and get answers from Impact Austin members who are experienced participants in the FAC process. Special thanks to the following:

- Goodwill - for the use of their lovely conference facilities
- Thundercloud Subs - for their generous donation of sandwiches to feed the crowd
- Impact Austin members: Betsy Blair, Susan Blount, Anna Clepper, Joanna Creamer, Debbie Dupin, Meeta Khotare, Jane Leedom, Lisa Lyons, Gloria Oliver, and Sarah Swords for serving as Table Captains for the small group discussions
- Impact Austin members: Debbie Dupin and Maggie Olmstead for

their help in preparing and coordinating the event

## Annual Report

The 2009 Impact Austin annual report should have arrived in your mailbox toward the end of November. If you haven't taken a moment to check it out, please do so. This annual publication is a great opportunity to learn more about our accomplishments: including a financial overview, several 'firsts' in 2009, and completed Community Partner grant vignettes that are sure to inspire and make you feel good about the impact you have made in Austin. You can also share our exciting story with others by passing along the annual report to a friend!

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