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For Immediate Release

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Impact Austin 2007 Members Select Four Austin Charities To Receive Four \$104,000 Grants

Rude Mechanicals Theater, College Forward, Adoption Coalition of Texas, and Indigent Care Collaboration are the 2007 Recipients

Austin, TX, June 7, 2007 – Four Austin charities, Rude Mechanicals, College Forward, Adoption Coalition of Texas and Indigent Care Collaboration have received the 2007 grants from Impact Austin. The four \$104,000 grants will bring four new programs of service to the Austin community:

Rude Mechanicals Theater Collective (Culture)

Rude Mechanicals is an ensemble-based theatre company committed to collaboratively developing brave new works for the stage, presenting artists of national acclaim, training young theatre artists, providing Austin with a year-round multi-arts performance facility, and ensuring that every citizen in Austin has access to the arts regardless of economic status.

With the Impact Austin grant Rude Mechanicals will expand its Grrl Action program to a year-round arts education program for teenage girls designed to build self-esteem, individual strengths and an understanding of others through the creation of individualized arts projects completed alongside adult women mentors.

College Forward (Education)

College Forward provides college preparatory and retention services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding.

College Forward will use the Impact Austin grant to expand its comprehensive after-school program to serve 11th and 12th graders at Stony Point High School in Williamson County. Funds would help 80 low-income and first-generation students prepare to become the first in their families to earn Bachelor's degrees, impacting their lives and communities for generations to come.

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Adoption Coalition of Texas (Family)

The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit collaboration of community-based adoption organizations and Child Protective Services, whose mission is to find families for children languishing in the foster care system.

The Adoption Coalition will use the \$104,000 to expand recruitment and outreach efforts for programs to include The Heart Gallery of Central Texas and Forever Families, thereby increasing the number of older children, sibling groups and children with special needs adopted from foster care into permanent, stable families.

Indigent Care Collaboration (Health and Wellness)

The Indigent Care Collaboration (ICC) is a nonprofit collaboration of 18 organizations in Central Texas working together to improve the efficiency and quality of health care services available for uninsured and underinsured individuals in the region.

The Impact Austin grant will establish “The Williamson County Uninsured Hotline,” centralized screening and referral system to simplify and improve access to primary healthcare for those without a medical home and to assist those eligible for public health insurance with the enrollment process.

A big check presentation ceremony that is open to the public and the media, formally awarding the Impact Austin grants to Rude Mechanicals, College Forward, Adoption Coalition of Texas and Indigent Care Collaboration is:

Tuesday, June 12th
11:00 am
Steps of City Hall (2nd Street and Cesar Chavez)
(Parking available in the City Hall garage)

After receiving 129 letters of inquiry and reviewing 23 grant applications, Impact Austin’s 416 members voted on the following finalists:

- Rude Mechanicals
- College Forward
- Ecology Action
- Adoption Coalition of Texas
- Indigent Care Collaboration

One of Impact Austin’s goals is to change the face of philanthropy in the Austin area. By involving members in the due diligence and research process, we raise awareness of the many worthwhile charitable opportunities in the Austin area, and inspire our members to become involved with these charities in a more personal way.

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In its first four years, Impact Austin has extended ten grants for a total of \$1,067,000.00 to the Austin community. The 2004 (and first) grant recipient was LifeWorks. They used the grant to help launch the Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop at 5th and Lamar. In 2005, two \$100,500 grants went to Communities in Schools' "XY Zone" program and Austin Travis County MHMR's "Community VoiceMail" program. In 2006, three \$108,000 grants went to Emancipet, Literacy Austin and The Children's Wellness Center.

In 2008, Impact Austin's goal is to have a 500+ membership, allowing the organization to extend five \$100K grants.

Impact Austin's administrative costs are raised separately from the membership donations, allowing each member's entire \$1000 donation to go directly to the grantee.

Impact Austin is a 501(c)(3) public charity made up of women seeking to transform lives in the Austin area through high-impact and lifelong giving. The only membership requirements are to be female and donate \$1,000 each year. Impact Austin combines the annual donations from members and gives large grants each year to local worthy causes selected by the members. Grant applications are accepted in each of the following focus areas: culture, environment, family, education and health and wellness. Collectively, we are changing the face of philanthropy in Austin www.impact-austin.org.

**For interviews with Rebecca Powers of Impact Austin please contact Karen Frost,
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