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For Immediate Release

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Impact Austin 2006 Members Select Three Austin Charities For Three \$108,000 Grants

The Children's Wellness Center, EmanciPet, Inc., and Literacy Austin Are the 2006 Recipients

Austin, TX, June 9, 2006 – Three Austin charities, The Children's Wellness Center, EmanciPet, Inc., and Literacy Austin have received the 2006 grants from Impact Austin. The three \$108,000 grants will bring three new programs of service to the Austin community:

The Children's Wellness Center

The Children's Wellness Center (CWC) is a school-based health clinic created in partnership in 1996 between Del Valle Independent School District and the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. It has since had more than 62,000 visits for sick children, preventative care, immunizations and home visits.

The Impact Austin grant will offer 12 young women (or young men as applicable) in the Del Valle community the opportunity to obtain education and training toward a career in healthcare. Three students every six months will be recruited to attend an accredited clinical assistance program. Upon completion of classroom training, the students will complete a paid externship and then continue in employment for 20 hours per week for six months. These students will be assigned to a nurse practitioner during the externship and employment for mentorship, career counseling, personal support, etc.

Initially, the project will impact 12 young women or men by providing training, professional development, mentoring, and an accredited healthcare job certification. Ultimately the Children's Wellness Center will be able to increase its patient load by approximately 20 visits a day, 4800 patients a year and serve the healthcare needs of Del Valle at a much higher level.

EmanciPet, Inc.

EmanciPet is the only nonprofit in Austin that is a 100 percent spay/neuter clinic providing low cost surgeries from both mobile and stationary animal hospitals. Since 1999, over 35 thousand animals have been sterilized at EmanciPet's mobile hospital, while the organization has prevented births and subsequent unnecessary deaths of at least 537,500 dogs and cats at the stationary hospital.

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EmanciPet's goal is to make Austin the nation's 2nd No Kill city in the United States by 2008 by expanding their spay/neuter service capabilities. The Impact Austin grant of \$108,000 will complete the outfitting of one additional surgical unit at their stationary hospital. It will also improve access to the facility/services through the use of two additional transport vehicles which pick up and return pets to targeted neighborhoods. This will allow the organization to increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries it performs each year by 7,500, resulting in fewer animals euthanized.

Literacy Austin

The mission of Literacy Austin is to provide basic literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction for adults, age 17 and older, who read below the fifth grade level. Literacy Austin is now the largest provider of free adult basic literacy classes and ESL classes for adults in Central Texas.

The Impact Austin grant will provide a classroom build-out in their unused building space and hire a part-time Off-site Coordinator. These measures will enable the agency to respond more quickly to adult learners' requests for services and reduce the waiting list. As a result, Literacy Austin will be able to tutor 49 percent more clients onsite and service the needs of more individuals in other areas of Austin.

A big check presentation ceremony that is open to the public and the media, formally awarding the Impact Austin grants to The Children's Wellness Center, EmanciPet, Inc., and Literacy Austin, will be held:

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

After reviewing 121 grant proposals, Impact Austin's 324 members voted on the following finalists:

- Literacy Austin
- Austin YMBL Sunshine Camps
- The Children's Wellness Center
- EmanciPet, Inc.
- Zachary Scott Theatre

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.

In its first three years, Impact Austin has extended six grants for a total of \$651,000. 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 2007, Impact Austin's goal is to have 400+ members, allowing the organization to extend four \$100K grants.

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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, 512.451.7770, kfrost@frostmedia.com.