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Girls Giving Grants now taking applications

By Staff

American-Statesman staff

One girl with \$100 may not make much of a difference.

But 52 girls with \$5,200 can.

Girls Giving Grants, the only all-girl, grant-making cooperative in Austin that is fully funded and operated by its young members, is accepting proposals through Oct. 25 for its 2014 grant. Each year, this youth initiative of Impact Austin brings together girls in grades 8 to 12 who each chip in \$100; the girls then review grant applications and decide which nonprofit should get the money.

To be eligible, an organization must be a tax-exempt charity with a program improving the lives of young people in Travis, Hays, Bastrop or Williamson counties.

"The young women of Girls Giving Grants are truly inspirational," said Dina Mavridis, director of the girl-power program that is celebrating its ninth year. "Our girls are excited to learn about the needs of our community and to help in every way they can, starting with their collective grant of \$5,200."

Earlier this year, the girls selected Easter Seals Central Texas as their 2013 grant award recipient. The money helped provide speech, occupational and physical therapies as well as audiology services for eight disabled children.

"These children either had no insurance or their insurance did not cover the necessary services to help them to speak, hear, move, and perform everyday activities such as getting dressed, playing, and interacting with their families," said Jane Koble, Easter Seals' director of donor and foundation relations.

To apply

Grant applications are available at www.girlsgivinggrants.org. The website also has membership applications for young women interested in joining Girls Giving Grants for its next grant cycle.

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