



NEWS

For Extraordinary Members



Mark Your Calendar

1st-year Member Celebration

(for first-year members to celebrate the completion of their first membership year!)

Monday, May 21, 2012

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Carolyn DeRoeck's Home

Email Freda Voelker for details and to RSVP:

events@impact-austin.org

Annual Meeting

(for all members to meet and vote on our 2012 Community Partners)

Monday, June 11, 2012

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Stateside at the Paramount (newvenue!)

719 Congress Ave

Austin, TX 78701

[Register](#)

Question? Contact Freda Voelker at

events@impact-austin.org

Summer Community Membership Coffee

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Collectic Home

2875 Bee Cave Road

Austin, TX 78746

[Register](#)

Question? Contact Liz Fitzgerald at

efitzgerald@impact-austin.org

Executive Director Message

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Grants Update

Our 2012 Community Partner Finalists Have Been Chosen!

Our five Focus Area Committees have worked very hard over the past four months reviewing applications and attending site visits and we are now pleased to announce Impact Austin's 2011 Community Partner finalists:

Culture

Hispanic Alliance for the Performing Arts
Theatre Action Project

Education

AVANCE
Texas School for the Deaf Foundation

Environment

A Nurtured World
Ecology Action

Family



Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Executive Director

What a day!

Today I attended the Ethics in Business luncheon where Impact Austin was a finalist in the nonprofit category, I worked with the executive board committee on taking the first steps towards a new strategic plan, and I signed up for my first marathon where I will be running for Team Kids in New York City on the weekend of my 40th birthday in November.

As I reflect on this day I find a common theme, setting goals. Setting and better yet, achieving goals is very important in my personal and professional life. As I approach my first year with Impact Austin I am continually impressed by you, the members and our nonprofit community partners in setting and achieving goals.

As Impact Austin moves into a new fiscal year in July, we will review and set new goals. At our Town Hall in March, we applauded our accomplishments and looked toward the future. Sustainability is the key driver for our FY 2013 goals. An impressive panel of Impact Austin board and committee cabinet members spoke to our Town Hall attendees about sustaining the mission and vision of Impact Austin.

So how do we get there?

Strategic Planning

- Creating a plan that is grounded in sufficient research and fact so as to direct the organization in ways that protect and enhance value for everyone. Starting this summer I will work with the board to create a new strategic plan for Impact Austin.

Organizational Resources

- Managing resources in such a way that we create a win-win situation for our members and community partners. Creating better processes and improving technology. For example, increased e-communications will cut down on costs and provide faster communications, moving Annual Meeting and Town Hall to locations that will donate the space, AV, food etc. will reduce events budget, and redesigning the website will make the website more user friendly.

Partnerships for Children
Relief Nursery of Central Texas/ Strong Start

Health & Wellness
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area
Family Eldercare



Our 2012 Community Partner Finalists!

Finalist reports as well as project budgets and letters from the ten finalists will be e-mailed to you on May 30th. We encourage you to read these reports carefully so that you will be prepared to vote for the grant recipients at Impact Austin's Annual Meeting on June 11th. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, we encourage you to still vote through our absentee voting process. Details will come in your May 30th finalist packet.

Membership Update

Summer Community Membership Coffee

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Collectic Home

2785 Bee Cave Road

Austin, TX 78746

[map](#)

[Please Click Here to Register](#)

Even though we are all excited about the upcoming Annual Meeting and choosing our 2012 Community Partners, it is also already time to start thinking about recruiting new members to fund our 2013 grants! Please join us at our Summer Community Coffee and help Impact Austin get a jump start on our traditional fall recruiting. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and acquaintances and share the thrill of being part of putting \$500,000+ to work to make a tremendous impact in our community next year.

[Collectic Home](#), an amazing showroom of fine furnishings and accessories, has generously offered to host the Coffee. Conveniently located off Bee Cave Road just west of Mopac, Collectic Home is

Financial Sustainability

- Investing in our future by supporting Impact Austin operations, we will reach to our membership and beyond in the coming months.
- Impact Austin's goal is to have 100% of membership give a gift of personal significance to invest in our future.

- *Social Impact Investors (Impact Austin members donating to operations)*

- *Honoring the Impact (non-members donating to operations)*

- Corporate Support
- Grants

User/ Constituent Satisfaction

- That is you and our community partners! We want to make sure that your experience with Impact Austin is exceptional. What is good for our members is good for Impact Austin.

Learning - Continuous improvement through innovation

- It touches on everything we do at Impact Austin. We talk to our members/volunteers and ask how does this work, how could we do this better to benefit our members and community partners?

So as we look toward the annual meeting on June 11th, the pinnacle of our year, I ask you to think about your goals for Impact Austin. I want to hear from you as a first year member or a member going into your TENTH year. Your opinion matters and is key for Impact Austin meeting its goals.

This is a very exciting time, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds. I hope to see you on June 11th at our new venue, the State Theatre!

Gratefully,
Liz

New Video

Check out the latest Impact Austin video that was shown at the Town Hall Breakfast in March. You'll want to see this!



Video by Whitney Milam

Member Spotlight

easily accessible and has abundant parking. As an added bonus, Collectic Home offers 10% discount on event shopping!

Community Partner Spotlight

Austin Theatre Alliance - The Paramount and State Theatres

The [Literacy to Life](#) program, funded by Impact Austin from August 2011 - May 2013, is a seven-week school-based literacy and performing arts program for 3rd grade elementary classrooms that transforms the students' understanding and approach to literacy and performance arts. The students work with four professional teaching artists and performers on creative writing, poetry, narrative structure, songwriting, and scriptwriting, and are encouraged to fill their journals with their own creative thoughts and stories. After the residency, the Literacy to Life teachers and performers, called The Story Wranglers, present a professional theatrical performance in celebration of the wonderful and creative work.



Literacy to Life students filling their journals with their own creative thoughts and stories

Following is a letter that we received from a parent of a student in the Literacy to Life program.

"A few days before The Story Wranglers were due to begin their program in Ellie's class, she came home from school upset about a 'new creative writing program.' She was literally in tears that people were coming to her class for creative writing! 'Why are you upset?' I

by Carol Knox



Carol Knox (center) with her daughters
Becky Shires and Molly Dickens

Every month former colleagues from the late 90s and I gather to celebrate the friendship of good women. One of these women, Joan Yaffe, shared with us one evening how much she enjoyed her participation in Impact Austin and the collaborative nature of the organization of generous women. We all agreed how much more fulfilling this giving was than the various demands to "pay" for a set of address labels or a calendar.

Intrigued with the idea, I later went online to explore Impact Austin and when she visited, I shared with my younger daughter how excited I was about the possibilities. I planned to retire that year, and we discussed what a nice opportunity Impact Austin would be to expand my world outside my job teaching.

Since the requirement to join was months away, I filed the idea away under "later." Then on Mother's Day, I received checks in the mail from my three children, each for \$333 earmarked for my participation in Impact Austin. How cool is that? In the past I've received flocks of ducks and gifts in my name to various organizations, but this opportunity to make a difference and to participate has been a double blessing.

Annual Report

Please take a moment to check out the [2011 Impact Austin Annual Report](#). This annual publication is a great opportunity to learn more about our accomplishments: including details on our 2011 Community Partners, distribution of funds and member education events 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 forwarding the Annual Report to a friend!

Going forward, the Annual Report will be available on our website. However, if you prefer a paper copy, please contact Liz Fitzgerald at efitzgerald@impact-austin.org and we will happily mail one to you.

Connect with Us

We invite you to visit us online at www.impact-austin.org and connect with Impact Austin's social media community. This is a great way to

asked. 'Because,' she said, 'I am terrible at creative writing! I hate it! I stare at a blank piece of paper and don't know what to write! I don't want those people to be standing there watching me staring at my paper and not knowing what to write! And I hate when they tell us what to write about!'

So I started asking around about fun creative writing summer camps and fretting that my daughter would shut her mind to writing - one of THE most important skills required for success in school, career, and life. Then, The Story Wrangler team came to Ellie's class. She LOVED it!

You and your team showed two classes of third graders and their teachers how to play, have fun, open their minds, and enjoy the writing process. My daughter's favorite day of the week was Story Wrangler Day!

Thank you! Thank you for sharing your talents with two of our third grade classes this year. Every child should have the opportunity to explore creative writing in such a novel, engaging, and playful manner. Please share our gratitude with the entire Story Wrangler Team. Thank you for helping to make Austin such a great place to live and to raise a family."

You can check out more of the wonderful work that Impact Austin has afforded us to do on [Facebook: The Story Wranglers](#), where you can find a short documentary about our program.

Pierce Purselley
Literacy to Life Program Manager



Community Partner Spotlight

Communities In Schools of Central Texas

The Bastrop XY-Zone, the [Communities in Schools](#) program that was awarded a 2010 Impact Austin grant, has been going strong during the 2011-2012 school year. It has been filled with life-long learning experiences, and has had a tremendous impact on the young men, as well as in the community.

This year, the Bastrop XY-Zone program has intensively case-managed 48 adolescents on their journey to manhood. Each case-managed student has undergone a needs assessment and has an individualized service plan to promote school success and emotional health. The Bastrop XY-Zone coordinator has facilitated four support groups utilizing the XY-Zone's 5R's curriculum (Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, Reaching Out, and Role Modeling), where young men have shared their experiences with their peers, learned socio-emotional skills like anger management and effective communication, and developed a sense of cohesion and brotherhood. The young men have facilitated school-wide events, like the Live in Peace week and a three-on-three basketball tournament. They have also had valuable enrichment experiences, including visiting college campuses, presenting

keep in touch with other Impact Austin members and stay up-to-date on our current events. Please join us on:

Find us on [Facebook](#) 

View our profile on [Linked in](#) 

Follow us on [twitter](#) 

View our videos on [YouTube](#) 

Sign up to [volunteer](#).

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.

Our Vision

Our vision is that our women are inspirational role models reaching their full giving potential for a better quality of life in our community. We will ensure our long-term sustainability by tapping into the talents of our members and building Impact Austin from the "inside out."

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.

at the Texas School of Social Work Conference, and attending the UT Blazers Leadership Camp.



XY-Zone members partnered with Bastrop State Park to help with the rebuilding process after the fires

The Bastrop XY-Zone has also implemented a number of service learning projects. The first was a beautification project at an east Austin nursing home. That experience really motivated the young men in Bastrop to "Reach Out" in their own community. Next, the Bastrop XY-Zone connected with the Bastrop Downtown Business Alliance, which seeks to promote and preserve business in Bastrop. The XY-Zone also partnered with Bastrop State Park to help with the rebuilding process after the fires. Finally, the XY-Zone has helped distribute food at a mobile food pantry every month, since the beginning of the year, in partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank and Southwest Key.

The program's success rests not only in current achievements, but also with the desire that many of the participants have to continue to give back to their communities. This desire ensures that the 5 R's of the program will continue to enrich young lives.

One of the participants in the Bastrop program was recently asked about the impact that the XY Zone has had in his life. He stated that without the XY Zone, he "would not be in school, and would probably be locked up". With the help of the program, he is not only in school, but is earning his high school diploma this May.

Girls Giving Grants 2012 Community Partner Chosen!

Girls Giving Grants (g3) chooses The Christi Center's Kids Who Kare Program as its 2012 Community Partner.

On April 26th, g3 members awarded a \$5,700 grant to the Christi

Center. The Christi Center plans to use the grant funds to finance the "Kids Who Kare" project. The funds will support retreats outside of regular support group meetings to facilitate team building, socialization among group members, and increased communication/ positive interaction with family members. Since 2006, g3 has awarded over \$30,000 to the Austin-area community.



g3's check award ceremony at the Christi Center

g3 is currently seeking new members and adult advisor volunteers for next year. Please contact Dina Mavridis at dmavridis@girlsgivinggrants.org if you, your daughter, or someone you know is interested in joining or volunteering.

[Forward email](#)



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