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Young women's charitable organization doubles growth in their second year

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The young women of Girls Giving Grants ended their second year on a note of positive growth and passion for philanthropy, doubling their membership number and grant amount.

Several daughters of Impact Austin members founded the organization in 2006 and after one year, the group has grown from 13 members to 26 members and has increased the grant amount from \$1,300 to \$2,600. Founding member Brittany Burch, 18, who just graduated from Westwood High School, said the group focused more on their cause and took more time to really evaluate the grant applications.

"This year we realized that we wanted it to be less about us and more about giving," Burch said.

The girls' group is very similar to Impact Austin. At the beginning of the year, eighth through twelfth grade girls pay \$100 each and at the end of the year they vote for a local charity to receive the grant.

This year, the girls chose the



Girls Giving Grants have doubled membership in just two years, raising \$2,600 this year. Allie Holmstrom, Miriam Kalk, Brittany Burch, and Sarah Daly helped present the check to the Center for Child Protection last month.

Center for Child Protection as their grant recipient. The money will go toward the center's Moving Through Crisis program, which provides emergency funding for children affected

by abuse.

"It's definitely a need in our community," Burch said.

The grant process involves seeking and evaluating grant applications and nominating grant

recipient finalists. Each girl is on one of three application review committees that research and interview the organizations applying for a grant. The organization focuses on youth, and considers groups that would use the grant money to benefit the youth in the community.

The finalists this year were the Center for Child Protection and EmanciPET, an Austin-based non profit that provides low-cost or free surgeries to spay or neuter dogs and cats.

Because EmanciPET was chosen as the second finalist, Burch said the girls thought it was a great program, but Moving Through Crisis especially touched all the girls' hearts.

"I just fell in love with the organization," she said.

Dina Mavridis, the adult director for Girls Giving Grants, said the girls' dedication in the grant-giving process represents the girls' passion and commitment to what they do, which is also inspired by the people in their lives, such as their parents and teachers.

"They have such good support groups and that helps them make their mature decisions," Mavridis said.