

# **Austin women's group will donate more than \$200,000 this year**

## **Local nonprofits angling for grants.**

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Representatives from more than 100 Austin-area nonprofit organizations packed a conference room at Austin Community College on Wednesday, angling to learn how they could receive one of two \$100,500 grants being offered in 2005 by a generous group of local women.

The grants, the sum of \$1,000 donations from each member of Impact Austin, a philanthropic group of women, will fund cultural, environmental, educational, family and health projects in Travis, Hays and Williamson counties.

"It's the power of collective giving," said Rebecca Powers, president of Impact Austin. "You pool your resources so you make a bigger impact and you can see the results of the gifts."

She founded Impact Austin in 2003 after reading an article about a similar group in Cincinnati. Impact Austin offers women, who traditionally give their time rather than money, the opportunity to invest in the community.

To join Impact Austin, a woman must donate \$1,000. There is no time commitment for members.

This is the second year Impact Austin has awarded money to local nonprofits.

Last year, the group chose LifeWorks' Scoops For Youth program to receive its inaugural grant of \$126,000, donated by last year's roster of 126 women.

With the money, LifeWorks will open a Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop in downtown Austin. The shop will provide first-time employment training and job experience for at-risk youth.

This year, the size of the organization, and the amount of money it can distribute, has grown.

Application materials for the 2005 grants, which will be awarded in June, can be found at [www.impact-austin.org](http://www.impact-austin.org).

The grant funds must be used within 24 months of being awarded for specific projects with measurable results, said Glenda Holmstrom, vice president of Impact Austin.

The grant proposals can be for new programs or extensions of existing programs. But in every case, the ability of the program to endure after Impact Austin's grant is gone is an important factor.