

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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IMPACT AUSTIN'S 2006 GRANT AMOUNT TOTALS \$324,000

Three Grants at \$108,000 will be Given to Three Different Austin-Area Nonprofits in June, 2006

(Austin, TX – January 4, 2006) – Impact Austin, a local philanthropic group of women, announces its third annual request for grant proposals and will extend three \$108,000 grants to three different Austin-area charities in June, 2006.

"Through their participation in Impact Austin this year, over 300 women are combining not only \$1,000 donations, but also their passion for enriching our community," said Rebecca Powers, founder and president of Impact Austin. "Over the next 6 months, as they review proposals and decide on nonprofits to receive the three \$108,000 grants, these women will also be educated. They will learn about the needs in our community and about the dedicated nonprofit organizations working to meet those needs. Our members take what they've learned through their involvement with Impact Austin and apply the same principles in their personal giving strategies. We are creating a pool of informed philanthropists who are changing the face of giving in our region."

In June, 2005, two \$100,500 grants were awarded to the following:

Communities in Schools – The XY Zone Project

The XY Zone Project supports at-risk young men on their journey into manhood by teaching the core values of respect, responsibility, relationships, role models and reaching out. The Impact Austin grant funds the salaries of two full-time caseworkers – one each at two different high schools in AISD. The grant also provides funds for related materials, community service projects and field trips for the 50 young men (ages 13-18) on each campus who participate in the XY-Zone Project.

Austin Travis Country Mental Health Mental Retardation – Community Voice Mail

Austin Travis Country MHMR, due to its size and capabilities, is in a unique position to offer support to smaller social services agencies that do not have the infrastructure and/or staff to set up voice mail communications with their clients. Voice mail boxes play a critical role in assisting clients who do not have telephone service in obtaining jobs, medical care, housing and other important services. The Impact Austin grant provides funds for various start-up costs associated with the project that will provide 1,000 voice mail boxes to clients in the central Texas area.

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In June, 2004, the first Impact Austin grant of \$126,000 was awarded to LifeWorks.

LifeWorks

LifeWorks transitions youth and families from crisis to safety to success. In partnership with Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop initiative, LifeWorks owns and operates a Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop at the corner of 5th and Lamar in downtown Austin. The shop provides initial job training, a positive first-time employment experience and graduates at-risk youth to career-oriented jobs, career training programs and higher education.

Grant guidelines for 2006, forms and supporting materials are available at www.impact-austin.org.

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.