

Impact Austin Awards \$80,600 to Seedling Foundation

High-impact grant to help recruit more mentors, reach more children with incarcerated parents via schools

AUSTIN, TEXAS – JUNE 14, 2017 – Seedling Foundation proudly announces it was honored at Austin City Hall this week as a 2017 Impact Austin Community Partner and recipient of its Catalyst grant in the amount of \$80,600. This high-impact grant provides funding to strengthen or grow an organization to improve its future performance, impact and sustainability.

Honorable guests at the 2017 grants presentation ceremony included Austin Mayor Steve Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, City Council members Alison Alter and Delia Garza, and Impact Austin Founder Rebecca Powers. More than 75 guests attended including members and leadership of Impact Austin and leaders, volunteers and supporters of Austin area nonprofits.

Seedling Foundation supports children challenged by parental incarceration through innovative, research driven, school-based mentoring. Each year, the program helps more than 600 students in over 100 schools. The Catalyst Grant will sustain and grow this program by increasing awareness of this vulnerable population through enhanced marketing efforts to recruit mentors and engaging new school districts as potential partners.

Shira Ledman, Executive Director, remarked, “On behalf of Seedling Foundation’s Board, staff and, most importantly the children we serve, we want to thank Impact Austin for awarding Seedling the 2017 Catalyst grant. Since 2006 Seedling Foundation has been training and supporting volunteers to provide school-based mentoring for children with parents who are incarcerated. Seedling is the only research-driven, school-based organization in Texas focusing solely on serving children of prisoners. There are 8,000 children of parents who are incarcerated in the Greater Austin area and only six hundred have a Seedling mentor. With the Catalyst grant, Seedling can move our community to help more of these children develop the lasting mentoring relationships that build resilience and drive positive outcomes.”

“On behalf of our members, we are proud to award Seedling Foundation with a 2017 Catalyst grant,” says Lisa Apfelberg, acting executive director, Impact Austin. “As our greater Austin community continues to grow, so does the opportunity for Seedling to engage with more volunteers and mentors who will make a difference in the lives of children whom it serves.”

About Impact Austin

Impact Austin is a 501(c)(3) public charity comprised of women seeking to transform lives in the Greater Austin area through high-impact and lifelong giving. Its only membership requirements are to be female and donate \$1,250 each year. Impact Austin combines the annual donations from members and awards large grants each year to local worthy causes selected by its members. Grant applications are accepted in each of the following areas: culture, environment, education, family, and health and wellness. In 2015, it also established a Catalyst Grant that is awarded to organizations to improve their infrastructure and sustainability. Learn more at www.impactaustin.org.