

Young Philanthropists Make an Impact

What if? That's the question ImpactKC founders asked as they started outlining their vision for a new philanthropic group dedicated to making a difference in Kansas City.

What if they could engage up-and-coming business and community leaders in their effort? What if they could raise a significant amount of money for local charities? What if they

could pull together to make a bigger difference in this city than any of them could do on their own?

What if quickly turned into reality and ImpactKC was born. In just six months time, the group has recruited nearly 50 new members and has made over \$40,000 in grants to local not-for-profit organizations.

"Our goal was to harness the energy and entrepreneurial spirit of our members to make a substantive impact in the community," said Dan Fromm, president of ThreeWide Marketing, who developed the initial idea. "We wanted to magnify the ability of young people to drive real change, as well as provide a better understanding of the tremendous value non-profits provide to Kansas City."

Fromm took his idea to two lifelong friends, Greg Wolf and David Dickey, and it blossomed from there. With each new member to the group committing \$1,000 annually, Fromm believes the opportunity for growth is significant.

"We knew this concept would work as soon as we started sharing the idea with people," Fromm explained. "To see it come together and make this kind of difference in just a few months is incredibly rewarding."

Working through the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, ImpactKC received more than 160 grant applications. Five finalists were ultimately selected to make presentations to the entire membership in October. "Having the members actively engaged in the process was critical to us from the start," said Wolf, a partner



left to right Greg Maday, Jeff Lynch, Megan Rupp, Dan Fromm, Becky Loboda, Greg Wolf, Jeff Teeven, David Dickey, Richard Wetzel.

at Shook Hardy & Bacon, "The presentations not only showed how great the need is, but also allowed the membership to see the quality of organizations in the community."

The full power of the idea came to fruition in November when ImpactKC awarded its first grants, each for \$22,000 to the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council and Literacy Kansas City.

"We're thrilled with the outcome," said Margaret J. May from The Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council. "The whole process was impressive and, after meeting some of the members and hearing their questions, it's clear to me that ImpactKC is going to be a strong player in this community for a long time. They're committed and they understand the power of what they've started. This is a big grant for us and one that will make a significant difference in what we're able to accomplish in the Ivanhoe neighborhood in 2005."

"We are honored to be one of the first organizations recognized by ImpactKC," said Diane Daldrup, Executive Director of Literacy Kansas City. "Teaching adults and teens to read is such a fundamental cause and this grant will go a long way towards helping us achieve our goals. Our organization touches the lives of so many people in the community and with the support of ImpactKC we will begin to reach the more than 225,000 adults in the metropolitan area who are functionally illiterate."

ImpactKC's goal is to reach 100 members next year and to make as many as four donations of \$25,000. "Based on the momentum we have and how happy our members are with the process, we anticipate hitting that goal in 2005," Fromm said.

Long-term the group would like to build an endowment and further expand on the educational element of philanthropy. "Central to our mission is giving the membership an opportunity to expand their knowledge about philanthropy and community service," emphasized Dickey, a Sprint executive, "We have the ability to make substantive monetary impacts, but the real power of the organization will be felt as we engage young leaders more deeply in the community."

Officers:

Dan Fromm, President
Greg Wolf, Vice President
David Dickey, Secretary/Treasurer

Megan Rupp
Jeff Teeven
Richard Wetzel

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