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**Austin Child Guidance Center Awarded \$108,400 Impact Austin Grant for Capacity Building**

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Austin Child Guidance Center was awarded an Impact Austin grant to increase mental health services to children and their families in central Texas. The \$108,400 award will be utilized to hire two additional licensed therapists, increasing capacity at the center by 182 children and 228 family members each year.

“We are delighted to have this endorsement of the critical work that we do from Impact Austin,” reports Executive Director Russell A. Smith, LMSW. “Their support will allow us to permanently increase our capacity, and will truly make an impact on so many children and families who are confronted by mental health concerns.”

Austin Child Guidance Center was selected in the “health and wellness” area, joining four additional grantees in education, family, environment, and culture.

This is the second Impact Austin award for Executive Director Smith. He was Executive Director of YouthLaunch in 2009 when they were awarded an Impact Austin grant for their Urban Roots program. In addition, Russell is on the board of Austin Groups for the

Elderly (AGE), an organization his grandmother Bert Kruger Smith founded in 1986.

AGE received an Impact Austin award in 2010.

“I am a huge proponent of collective giving, and of Impact Austin’s model in particular. Through banding together, this group of community leaders has been able to do remarkable things,” says Smith.

Established in 1951, ACGC is the oldest children’s mental health agency in central Texas. The mission is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges. To achieve this mission, Austin Child Guidance Center employs a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and counselors who provide individual, family, and group therapy; psychiatric evaluations and psychological assessments; parent education; and training of current and future mental health professionals. ACGC has provided mental health services to more than 130,000 children and trained more than 650 professionals pursuing master and doctorate degrees in the mental health field.

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