

**YOUNG WOMEN'S  
ALLIANCE**

**2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Letter from the President

Dear YWA Supporters,

It has been a monumental year for the organization, and the Foundation. With your continued support, we have moved forward in efforts to develop our members personally and professionally, as well as give back to girls and young women in Central Texas through scholarships and grants that support them, ultimately inspiring all women to give back to their community.

The YWA Foundation Annual Report gives insight to your financial contributions and donations to the Foundation this year. It is because of you, the YWA Foundation is able to influence the Central Texas community to be a place of limitless opportunities where every woman reaches her full potential. As we welcomed the 19th year of the Foundation, our members raised funds by reaching out to their individual networks, and hosting fundraising events through our Foundation Fundraising Campaign.

Our annual Holiday Party allowed members and the public to mix and mingle while donating during the month of December. The Austin Under 40 Awards Gala, a Young Women's Alliance and Young Men's Business League event honoring those who excel professionally and as philanthropists, raised \$43,000 to support the YWA Foundation and the Austin Sunshine Camps. YWA hosted its annual Spring Soiree to honor the 2015/2016 scholarship and grant recipient, Dress for Success.

On behalf of the 2015/2016 YWA/F Board of Directors, and the entire YWA membership, we thank you for supporting us this year. As we move into YWAF's 20th anniversary, I am confident that with your never-ending support, YWA and the YWA Foundation will continue to be a part of a pivotal movement for girls and young women.

Thank you again, and we look forward to all you will help YWA and the YWA Foundation accomplish in the coming 2016/2017 year, and each year beyond that.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Sager  
YWA President 2015/16



# ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

## **Young Women's Alliance**

The Young Women's Alliance (YWA) is a young professional's organization that has been a staple of the Austin community for over 20 years. YWA seeks to empower its members to develop personally and professionally by offering educational programs, access to engaging speakers and community leaders, and by creating a platform for women professionals to connect and network. Community involvement is likewise at the forefront of YWA. All members are encouraged to volunteer with local nonprofits, emphasizing our belief that strong leaders are created not only through success in their careers, but by giving back to the community that helped them thrive.

## **Young Women's Alliance Foundation**

The YWA Foundation is a separate 501(c)3 entity established in 1997. The purpose of the YWA Foundation is to build a financial base for YWA and support future growth of our community programs. Through the Foundation, YWA is able to grant multiple scholarships each year to young women in or entering college or trade school. The Foundation also awards an annual grant to a local non-profit partner who shares our mission of providing educational programs and/or professional development to women and girls in Austin.

Through the Foundation, YWA is able to foster the growth and development of women in Austin, serving both YWA members as well as women and girls throughout the Central Texas community.

Support for the YWA Foundation is provided by the fundraising efforts of our Members during our Fall Fundraising Campaign, through proceeds from Austin Under Forty, YWA's annual Fundraiser which recognizes leading young professionals in Austin, other events such as our Spring Fundraiser, and by generous donations from individuals and corporations in our community.

# 2015/16 YWA Board of Directors

## **YWA President**

Jessica Sager

## **YWA President-Elect**

Vanessa Fuentes

## **YWA Past President**

Alexandria Patterson

## **Vice President of Strategic Partnerships**

Lauren Adams

## **Vice President of AU40**

Mysha Lubke

## **Vice President of Community Service**

Nicole Beckley

## **Vice President of Development**

Wency Martinez

## **Vice President of Events**

Helen Ralowicz

## **Vice President of Finance**

Megan Belflower

## **Vice President of Giving**

Tara Wilkinson

## **Vice President of Marketing**

Asha McElfish

## **Vice President of Membership**

Frances Jordan

## **Co-Vice President of Operations**

Clare Connally

## **Co-Vice President of Operations**

Sarah Williamson

## **Vice President of Programs**

Emily Hudson

# Young Women's Alliance Scholarships

The YWA Foundation offers higher education scholarships to young women in or entering college or trade school. In 2015/16 YWA had over 60 applicants for two competitive scholarships totaling \$5,000. Applications are reviewed by members of the Development/Giving Committee.



# Young Women's Alliance SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIANTS

## YOUNG LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP



Perla Grimal Ramirez  
2015/16 Young Leaders Scholarship Recipient

The Young Leaders Scholarship is available to female seniors attending Austin area high schools for college or trade school. Recipients are chosen based on commitment to community service, leadership potential, demonstrated financial need, and academic achievement.

## HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



Anne Daly-Lesch  
2015/16 Higher Education Scholarship Recipient

The Higher Education Scholarship is available to women attending Central Texas universities who have completed 60 hours of undergraduate coursework or who are enrolled in graduate school. Recipients are chosen based on commitment to community service, leadership potential, demonstrated financial need, and academic achievement.

# Young Women's Alliance COMMUNITY GRANT



Every year YWA awards a grant to a non-profit partner who shares our mission of providing educational programs and/or personal or professional development to women and girls in the Austin Community. The partnership is strengthened throughout the year by community service projects and support from YWA volunteers.

In 2015/16, YWA awarded \$10,000 to **Dress for Success Austin**, a non-profit whose mission is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and development tools to help them thrive in work and life.

# Young Women's Alliance Austin Under 40

The Austin Under 40 Awards Ceremony celebrates Austin's emerging professionals and mentors. The event gathers Austin's business and community leaders, movers-and-shakers, and social mavens to dine, dance, and celebrate for one memorable night. The evening's main event is an awards ceremony where 15 of Austin's most impressive professionals, including the 2016 "Austinite of the Year," are announced and presented.

The Austin Under 40 Awards Ceremony and Gala are co-presented by the Young Women's Alliance (YWA) and the Young Men's Business League (YMBL), who have partnered since 1998 to honor and celebrate Austin's emerging professionals and mentors. Proceeds raised from this event benefit the YWA Foundation, which provides scholarships for girls and women and grants to the organizations that serve them, as well as the YMBL Austin Sunshine Camps.



Austin Kaplan, 2016 Austinite of the Year



# Young Women's Alliance IN THE COMMUNITY

One of the pillars of YWA is to serve the community that has helped our organization and our members learn and grow. Members are encouraged to volunteer with a non-profit of their choice throughout the year. The Community Service Committee actively seeks out and organizes special YWA group volunteer events with organizations throughout Austin, including but not limited to our non-profit grant recipient. In 2015/16 YWA logged over 2,000 community service hours.

## SELECT YWA GROUP VOLUNTEER EVENTS INCLUDE:

### **Ronald McDonald House: House Breakfast**

Prepared a meal for those staying at the Ronald McDonald House

### **Capital Area Food Bank**

Sorted canned goods and foods

### **Wonders and Worries Family Festival**

Worked a booth doing face painting for children

### **Dress for Success**

Sorted donations and assisted with maintenance of the Dress For Success Facility

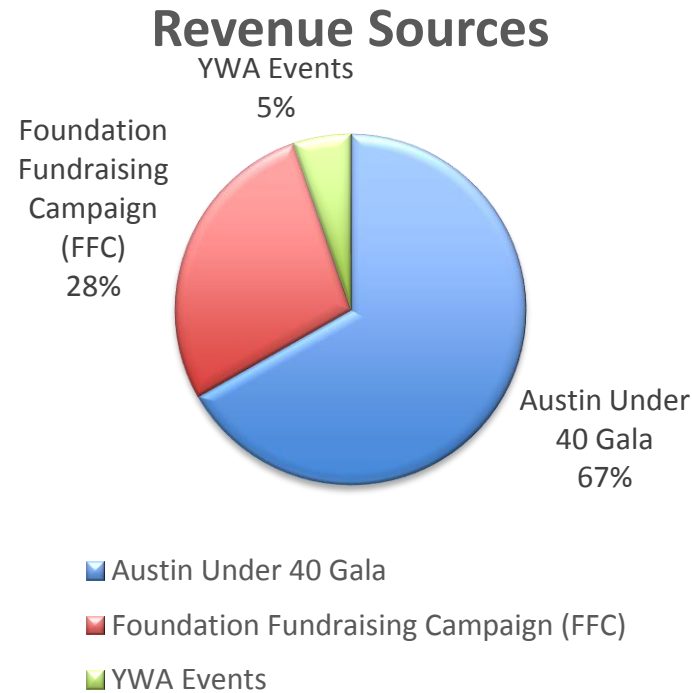
### **Habitat for Humanity**

Assisted with a home repair project, helping to give a home a fresh coat of paint



# 2015/16 SOURCES OF REVENUE

Donations to the Foundation help YWA to further our mission of bringing educational opportunities and professional growth to women in our community, creating opportunities for aspiring young women and girls to become future leaders in Central Texas and beyond.



Austin Under 40 2016: \$43,000

Foundation Fundraising Campaign: \$18,000

Other YWA Events: \$3,400

**THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**YWA**