



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
and the Jessicas. And the Victors, Michelles and Davids.
MEMBER FDIC
Frost
SWITCH TO

Home > Business

Austin Gives program encourages area businesses to share profits

LATEST BUSINESS NEWS »

► Pecan Street's aim: Create path for consumers into smart grid's future 10:11 p.m. Sunday

► Former trailblazer Kodak fights for its life in the digital age 5:48 p.m. Sunday

► Small Austin software company works with some financial giants 5:41 p.m. Sunday

► Cape Coral and the recovery of dreams Saturday, Jan. 21

► Despite economy, local magazines still going strong Sunday, Jan. 22

Latest business news and last 7 days of headlines

MORE ON STATESMAN.COM »

► With the right strategies, 2012 can be the year you balance work and life

► NBA roundup: Bucks snap Heat winning streak

► College basketball roundup: Virginia Tech ends Virginia's 9-game home win streak

► Serena Williams ousted; Kvitova moves to quarterfinals

► Patriots made 3-point Super Bowl favorites

► Giants beat 49ers to make Super Bowl

► Giffords to leave Congress, focus on recovery

More

Commenting unavailable on some articles

By Gary Dinges
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Updated: 7:04 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012
Published: 7:02 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012

E-mail | Print | Share | Larger Type

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce today will debut an effort to highlight corporate philanthropy in Central Texas and to encourage more of it.

The initiative — called Austin Gives: Business Giving Back — is to be unveiled this morning by 2011 chamber board Chairman Bobby Jenkins and Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell.

The measure aims to encourage area companies of all sizes to pledge — via an online form at austingives.net — to give a portion of their pre-tax earnings to local nonprofit agencies.

Firms that agree to give at least 1 percent of pre-tax earnings will be honored at a "community celebration event," where awards will be presented to businesses in three categories — small, midsize and large.

An annual volunteer impact award is also planned.

"Austin businesses have always been supportive of community-based organizations, and I'm pleased that this program will highlight business philanthropy in Austin," Leffingwell said.

BuildASign.com is one of the inaugural Austin Gives participants.

"This is something a lot of companies want to do but don't have the outlet," CEO Dan Graham said.

Philanthropy has been a part of the culture at BuildASign.com since it opened for business in 2006, Graham said. Three of the company's 180 employees focus solely on donated signage.

"I really see this snowballing," he said. "It's a great way to energize your team, help with recruiting and get your name out in the community."

Other area companies that have already signed on, according to the chamber, include 3M, H-E-B, National Instruments, Southside Flying Pizza and the Steam Team.

The Austin American-Statesman is the campaign's media partner in the initiative.

Site Web Archive Web Se

AT&T U-verse® TV + Internet
the best team for the big
SHOP NOW

SHARE THIS PAGE WITH YOUR

41 33 1
Share

LATEST BUSINESS GALLERIES



On the market in Lakeway, 01.22.12



Hot properties, 01.22.12



In s

BUSINESS BLOGS

Starting Up »

Austin digital media startups visit London's Tech City

Statesman Business Blog »

LatinWorks honored as multicultural agency of the year

Digital Savant »

Keeping your info secure in the wak the Zappos.com breach

MOST POPULAR

As part of a technology change, commenting will not be available on some articles for a number of months. [Read more about the change here.](#)

FROM THE WEB

[Wolf Creek draws Texans with big snow, small crowds](#)
[Frustrated job seekers are deciding to give up](#)
[Some financial resolutions for retirees in 2012](#)
[Austin company plans IPO](#)
[Country club returns to residence in ColoVista](#)

"The Austin business community really wants to contribute to the overall well-being of the community," said Jenkins, CEO of ABC Home and Commercial Services, another one of the inaugural Austin Gives participants. "That's how we do business in Central Texas — we give back."

Austin Gives is modeled after the Minnesota Keystone Program, founded by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. A Central Texas delegation visited Minneapolis in 2010 to learn more about the 35-year-old campaign.

The Keystone Program recognizes businesses that give at least 2 percent of pre-tax earnings annually.

"It works very well for us, and it has become a great model for others," said Minneapolis chamber spokeswoman Linda Sue Anderson. "We get calls all the time from all over the country. There are a lot of people who look to us."

After the Minnesota trip, Austin Gives was born through collaboration between the chamber, Entrepreneurs Foundation, Austin Community Foundation, United Way Capital Area, Successful Giving and I Live Here, I Give Here.

"There's a lot of need out there, and I know a lot of businesses will be willing to step up," Jenkins said.

gdinges@statesman.com; 912-5987

Founding Austin Gives partners

ABC Home and Commercial Services

BuildASign.com

Convio

PayPal

Ticket City

Wells Fargo

Workplace Resource

Yellow Cab

Austin Gives participants

3M

ABC Home and Commercial Services

Alt Creative

BBVA Compass

BuildASign.com

DPR Construction

eBay

Farmers Insurance Group

Flynn Construction

GenerousArt.org

Give As You Get

Give Realty

Harden Healthcare

[▶ Nine things and one crazy predictor](#)

[▶ Cedar Park residents cling to 1998 v Center as heart of city](#)

[▶ House Park neighbors, Austin school soccer team to keep game noise down](#)

[▶ Psychologists question mandatory re](#)

[▶ Boater sentenced in '02 crash that ki Lake Buchanan](#)

[▶ Small Austin software company work financial giants](#)

LATEST AP BUSINESS NEWS »

[▶ Box Office Preview: It's 'Underworld'](#)
Thursday, Jan. 19

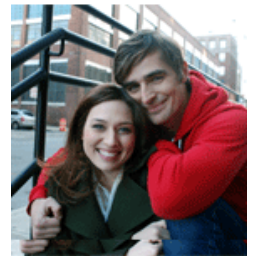
[▶ Fewer layoffs, lower inflation give ec](#)
Thursday, Jan. 19

[▶ Consumer prices flat for 2nd straight](#)
Thursday, Jan. 19

[▶ AP NEWS: Texas | Nation | World |](#)

 howaboutwe.com

ALL IT
TAKES
IS ONE
DATE



START
DATING
NOW

H-E-B
Heldenfels Enterprises
Heritage Title
Hotels for Hope
K Friese & Associates
Maxwell Locke & Ritter LLP
National Instruments
Southside Flying Pizza
Successful Giving
Texas Gas Service
The Steam Team
Truluck's
Wells Fargo Bank
Workplace Resource

Share this article:

User comments are not being accepted on this article.

Custom Writing

We care for you. We will help you write your paper.
www.essaycare.com

Gold Stock to watch

Billionaire invests big into GOLD stock
chicagofinancialtimes.com/SAGE

A Perfect Business Plan

1. MBA Writer 2. Research 3. Financials 4. Proofed 5.
www.wisebusinessplans.com

Ads by Yahoo!

NEWS

[Local](#)
[Virtual Capitol](#)
[Williamson](#)
[State](#)
[Crimetracker](#)
[StatesmanWatch](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Database Central](#)
[Nation](#)
[World](#)
[Lottery](#)
BUSINESS
[Technology](#)
[Personal Finance](#)
[Area Employers](#)
[Employment](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[AP Business](#)
OPINION
[Insight](#)
[Ben Sargent](#)

SPORTS

[Longhorns](#)
[Longhorns Gameweek](#)
[Aggies](#)
[HS Football](#)
[High School](#)
[Recruiting](#)
[Outdoors](#)
[Golf](#)
[Area Pro Teams](#)
[NFL](#)
[NBA](#)
[MLB](#)
[AP Sports News](#)
LIFE
[Style](#)
[Travel](#)
[Gardening](#)
[Green](#)
[Health & Medical](#)
[Raising Austin](#)
[Books](#)
[Faith](#)
[Life Guide](#)
[Weddings](#)
[Season for Caring](#)

WEATHER

TRAFFIC
[Traffic Cameras](#)
MULTIMEDIA
[Collective Vision](#)
[Interactives](#)
[Galleries](#)
BLOGS
ENTERTAINMENT
[A-List](#)
[Events](#)
[Music](#)
[Movies](#)
[Television](#)
[Arts](#)
[Recreation](#)
[Spas/Salons](#)
[Food/Drink](#)
MOBILE/RSS
[Statesman](#)
[Austin360](#)
[iPhone application](#)
[RSS](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

[Cars](#)
[Homes](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Find Austin Jobs](#)
[Merchandise](#)
CUSTOMER SERVICE
[Member Center](#)
[E-mail Newsletters](#)
[Subscribe to the paper](#)
[Sign up for the eEdition](#)
[Subscriber Services](#)
[Where to buy the Statesman](#)
[Buy Photos](#)
[Readers Panel](#)
[Careers at the Statesman](#)
[Internships](#)
[Newspapers in Education](#)
[News tips](#)
[Reader rewards](#)
[Site map](#)
[Ethics Policy](#)

ADVERTISE

[Print](#)
[Online](#)
[Classifieds \(Print & Online\)](#)
[eTearsheets](#)
[Newspaper Ads](#)
MARKETING
[Community Development](#)
[DoGood](#)
[Glossy](#)
[Concert series](#)
[Marketing](#)
[Readers panel](#)
[Special Sections](#)
AFFILIATED SITES
[Ahora Si](#)
[Hookem.com](#)
[Bastrop Advertiser](#)
[Cedar Park Citizen](#)
[Lake Travis View](#)
[Leander Ledger](#)
[Pflugerville Pflag](#)
[Round Rock Leader](#)
[Smithville Times](#)
[Westlake Picayune](#)

Copyright © Mon Jan 23 15:30:04 EST 2012 All rights reserved. By using Statesman.com, you accept the terms of our visitor agreement. [Please re:](#)
[Contact Statesman.com](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About our ads](#)

