

Austin Business Journal - November 21, 2006

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Bank of America gives \$400K to local efforts

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Two local nonprofits are the benefactors of Bank of America's inaugural neighborhood excellence awards in Austin.

Foundation Communities and **American YouthWorks** will each receive \$200,000 for operations and program expenses. Foundation Communities works to provide affordable housing to the homeless and working poor, as well as financial and computer training. American YouthWorks serves at-risk young people with education, job training and community service opportunities.

Five local leaders also received recognition, in the form of an award and a \$5,000 grant to donate to the nonprofit of their choice:

- Elizabeth Colvin, who has volunteered with tax preparation for low-income residents.
- Lisa Fielder, executive director and cofounder of College Forward, a nonprofit that gives motivated, economically disadvantaged high school students college prep services.
- Local arts leader Jean Graham, who has worked to bring arts to underserved communities.
- Developer Tom Stacy, who has started a scholarship program for underprivileged kids to attend camp.
- Ann Stafford, who works in community affairs at [Spanision Inc.](#) and has volunteered with many Central Texas nonprofits.

The bank also highlighted five Central Texas students.

Bank of America NA started its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative in 2004 to highlight people working to rebuild and revitalize communities. Since that time, the banks has given more than \$48 million to the program, which operates in 40 markets across the country. This year marked the program's first foray into Austin.

"Bank of America recognizes that each of these groups is essential to sustaining vital neighborhoods," says Nikki Salzillo, market development manager at Bank of America. "And through this program, we strive to support each of these critical stakeholders and enable even greater community revitalization in Austin."

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