

Austin Gives 2025 Generous Business Awards Community Leader Finalist Transcript

[0:12] – Speaker 1

Well, Realty Austin Compass is a little different in that respect because we have a bunch of entrepreneurs on our team – sole proprietors basically. So what we did was we asked them to give a portion of their commission with every transaction to this charitable fund and we saw that grow and grow and you know it's that 'together we can go far' mentality.

[0:39] – Speaker 2

J.E. Dunn is 101 years old as a company. You know, fourth generation family-owned, employee-owned company. You don't get to that point without being a good corporate citizen, without giving back, without having a heart, and having a purpose. And I believe that's really true today, even more than it was 100 years ago. I think our community in Austin expects, you know, corporate responsibility, companies that want to support the growth, and set the vision for our future. I think at J.E. Dunn we have a unique situation where we physically shape the skyline, build buildings, build you know infrastructure that supports the growth of the city, while also believing and knowing we have a responsibility to contribute through philanthropic initiatives as well as civic engagement. So we definitely believe in and understand our role in the community in that in that respect.

[1:31] – Speaker 3

Deloitte has just always been focused on community in everything we do. It's in our DNA, so it's not necessarily required or forced or anything like that, but it's definitely being a part of our community, being, you know, connected, finding those connections, whether it's volunteer hours, millions of dollars of donations by all of our colleagues, our time, pro bona, whatever it is. But it's just about being connected to our community. And we believe that, you know, it just creates a social impact that, you know, we can't really put a dollar value on.

[2:04] – Speaker 4

At PNC, we're strong believers that if we're going to do business in the community, that we have a responsibility to give back to the community. Cause when the people of our city, when the businesses in our city are doing well, that's going to help, you know, the bank, right? And how well we do. Plus, if you look across the landscape of Austin, there's a lot of banks that you could choose from, right? So, I think it's important that our clients feel good about who they're doing business with. It's also important that our employees feel good about who they're working for and I think giving back to the community really helps with all of that.

[2:36] – Speaker 5

Jason Kelly and I work with the IBM Corporation. I've been there just over a couple decades. Giving is part of our DNA. You made that comment earlier and I'd say that it started early on

when you join the company. It's something that's mentioned in 1931 our original CEO said, you know, that it's community duty and we then freshen that up. It's you give where you live and work. And so when we do that and we also one of our core values is innovation that matters for us and for the world.

[3:09] – Speaker 6

My name is Katie Ranken. I'm with Ally Medical Emergency Room. I'm part of our amazing marketing team there. So, we launched Ally Gives a couple of years ago and it was we were doing so much giving then it just became an opportunity for us to get our giving a little bit more focused and a little bit more organized. And so, we actually allow the staff to come in and, you know, give us their opinion on some things that they want to do. And it's kind of our marketing team's job. And a lot of the events and things that we do cross over with marketing. So, it allows us to give more because it's us just getting our names out there and just happen to be doing a really good thing and making an impact while we're doing it.

[3:45] – Speaker 7

Because we're a cooperative or member-owned, our employees know that we are there solely for our members and we constantly give back to our members and the communities that we serve. And we have paid volunteerism so, our employees love to get out and volunteer. Last year alone, we volunteered 5,200 hours to local charities. What I really love about the Austin business climate is the collaboration and the willingness of folks to reach across and work on each other's strengths and enhance that and work together to leverage each other's strengths to give back to the communities that we serve. I can't tell you how many leaders that I talk with where our vision is nearly the same as it relates to how can we help Austin and how can we help the central Texas marketplace.

[4:30] – Speaker 8

My name is Denise Grode. I'm the head of HR and communications and community for Cirrus Logic. I've been there a little over 3 years now. Giving is in our DNA and it's really something that we think is so important for our employees. So, one, one of our values is job satisfaction. And so, knowing that our employees work hard, they can also give back, take some time off and into the communities. It's about being a really good community partner. The Austin community is amazing. So, when you go to events, you go to things, it's the same. You see the same people, you meet new people, very, very giving. I don't really see any marquee companies that aren't at events or aren't. So, it's really spread out across. It's not just one or two companies that are kind of carrying that in Austin. I think that's amazing. They're very friendly. We've done some joint things with other companies, which is even some of our competitors, which is great. Because it's the best interest of the community. So, I think that's amazing.