November 2026

WOMEN ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

Impact100slc.org
Impact100slc@gmail.com

From the President

In case you missed the Award Celebration, the 2026 Impact 100 St. Lucie $100,000 grant was awarded to **THE ARC OF THE TREASURE COAST!**

It turned out that the third time was the charm for this wonderful organization that focuses on the intellectually and developmentally disabled. This grant will allow them to fully activate their Therapeutic Intervention Program (T.I.P.) to promote the independence, health, employment and full participation in the community of its clients.

Both HANDS and SafeSpace, two programs that provide needed services to the people of St. Lucie County, have received a $10,000 check to help with their programs as well.

My focus is getting Impact 100 St. Lucie to the "next level," whatever or wherever that is. Our three priorities over the next few years (membership growth and retention, organizational sustainability and community visibility, partnerships and impact) all led me to one resource: YOU!

We need your help and input. To get to the next level, we need to hear different ideas and different voices. If you'd like that voice to be yours, contact me at mrsjfooch@gmail.com. I can't wait to hear from you.

Janet Maffucci

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2026 Award Celebration and Annual Meeting

This year's program was highlighted by the presence of two dynamic women. Anne Posey, CEO of Tykes & Teens, educated us on how they have spent last year's $100,000 grant. In collaboration with Project LIFT, our 2021 grant winner, Tykes & Teens has established their walk-in assessment clinic in Fort Pierce on the second floor of Project LIFT's new building. Anne has invited us all to attend their open house on Friday, November 6th, from 11:00 AM until noon. Registration closes today so please email Hayley Gomez at HayleyG@tykesandteens.org

Wendy Steele, the founder and designer of the Impact 100 model, inspired us with the story of how she started this organization. Raised on the philosophy that her purpose in life is to leave the world a better place than she found it, she struggled at first to interest other women in joining her in a giving circle. That changed when she moved to Cincinnati, a corporate mecca, and found women embracing her desire to give back. She started the first chapter there in 2001 and, in 2003, People magazine ran an article on the chapter and, suddenly, she found herself the founder of a national and then international program.

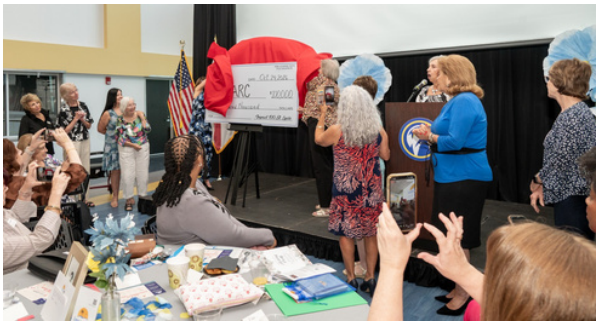
Janet Maffucci

I would like to thank everyone for attending, voting, helping with setup and take down, your friendship, your encouragement and participation in person or in heart at our Annual Celebration. It was my pleasure to meet so many of you.

Diane Stark-Kennedy









See more photos of the celebration on our website.

Our Strategic Planning Priorities

Each one of you is a source of new members. Almost every woman who is a member was brought in by another member. Please keep doing what you're doing.

Our newly-started Ambassador Program is aimed at educating our members, both new and veteran, to the opportunities that we provide in terms of volunteering and socializing. That feeling of belonging is what we hope will increase our member retention rate.

An important part of our second priority is succession planning. I just started my sixth and final year as your president and I am very excited to announce that Diane Stark-Kennedy, our vice president and events chair, will take over that role next October. We will be working very closely this year so that you won't even notice the transition next fall.

That means, of course, that we will be looking for a vice president and events chair over the next few months. If you are interested in joining the Events Committee, please let us know by emailing us at impact100slc@gmail.com.



Our third priority is being handled by our ramped-up Development Committee, headed by Marsha Jones and Andrea Virtuoso. They will be working this year to develop a marketing plan and to cultivate key community partnerships.

if you can help with any of that, please let us know. We especially would like help in the area of marketing materials, if that is your forte.

As stated in the President's Message, our main resource is all of you. Please think seriously about becoming more involved this year. We welcome your efforts and ideas and hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Janet Maffucci



Membership Committee

So WHY do we join Impact 100?

I was inspired to become a member because I was introduced to a way to make a charitable contribution to my own community that would allow me to actually see how my support would matter.

So the keyword here is “introduced.” Someone took the time to share her enthusiasm about IMPACT 100 and WHY she joined! Then she invited me to the Annual Brunch! I saw the enthusiasm, I felt the emotion, and I learned firsthand how I could make a difference by joining with other like-minded women to make a real impact right here where I live! I was sold!

Our membership is growing THANKS TO ALL OF YOU who are introducing and sharing YOUR message about WHY YOU JOINED and what Impact 100 means to you!

Impact 100 business cards are now available for each member so that you can offer your name and phone number to anyone you introduce to Impact 100. They will be available for you at all future events. This allows your contact to follow up with you.

Think how exciting 2027 will be when we can give two $100,000 grants!

Merilee Landrigan



Holiday Luncheon

Friday, December 4, 2026 at 11:30 AM-1:00 PM Casa Pasta Cucina, 100 S 2nd St, Fort Pierce.

During our site visits, the Grant Committee met volunteer-run Gracepacks, the nonprofit we will be featuring at our luncheon. This organization is committed to providing nourishment to food insecure children in our county.

We are asking you to consider donating gift cards (Publix, Walmart..) or cash to this group to help families during the holiday season.

Diane Stark-Kennedy



2025 Christmas Luncheon

Calendar of Events

November 6, 2026 at 11:00 AM. Alongside various nonprofits and organizations, Impact 100 St. Lucie members have been invited to the TYKES & TEENS Open House at the Project Lift Center in Fort Pierce. This extraordinary group was last year's $100,000 grant winner.

December 4, 2026 at 11:30 AM-1:00 PM. Our annual Holiday Luncheon will be celebrated at Casa Pasta Cucina in Fort Pierce. Invitations will be sent out in November.

January 7, 2027 at 5:00 PM-8:00 PM. BLAZE PIZZA, in Tradition, has invited us back for an evening of fundraising. They will be donating back to us a percentage of in person and online sales. Of course, family and friends are invited.

February 4, 2027 at 6:00 PM-8:30 PM, Wine Tasting, hot and cold charcuterie boards, appetizers and a fun time at Paradise Waterfront Café, 121 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce. These are the same folks that hosted us last year, but at a new and improved location.

April 20, 2027. Laurene McEneny has graciously invited IMPACT 100 members and guests to her home. More details to follow in the new year.

All our events are opportunities to bring in new members. We enjoy meeting new people and we never pressure anyone to become a member. Of course, our hope is that they would join us, but, if not, that they will spread the word about our wonderful organization.

Diane Stark-Kennedy
772-979-0903

Give Back Saturday - Heathcote Botanical Gardens







On Saturday, October 17th, our volunteers met at Heathcote Botanical Gardens for their annual Fall Festival. Heathcote's staff was very appreciative of Impact's crew of 15 women who helped make the event a success with their energy, enthusiasm, and upbeat attitude.

Many thanks to all who participated: Gwen Cunningham, Sally Eisenberg, Sue Roberto-Lausen, Janet Maffucci, Ellen Contreras, Rene Smith, Lisa Floyd, Renuke Kolipara, Aislinn Pitchford, Emily Flowers-Yahn, Lisa Derryberry, Diane Starke Kennedy, and Merilee Landrigan.

Ruth Stromak



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

November 14, 2026: Graceway Village. We will be sorting donations into categories, among other activities. Expect lots of laughter and conversation!

December 5, 2026: Treasure Coast Food Bank

December 21, 2026: Garden of Lights at Heathcote Botanical Gardens

January 9, 2027: Mustard Seed

Please contact Ruth Stromak at rstromak48@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

Member Highlight



Wendy Steele

Impact 100 St. Lucie was delighted to welcome Wendy Steele, founder and designer of the Impact 100 model, to our Award Celebration this year.

The Executive Committee was fortunate to be able to have dinner with Wendy the evening before the celebration. Here are a couple of the questions we asked and Wendy's answers.

What prompted you to start Impact 100?

Wendy grew up in a family that taught her that everyone has the power and the responsibility to leave the world a better place than they found it. This philosophy powered everything that she did in life from an early age to the present.

Wendy lost her mother at the age of fourteen and was amazed and inspired when the women in her neighborhood stepped up without being asked, anticipating her family's needs before they even knew they had those needs. This led her to an understanding of what philanthropy is.

Wendy tried for several years and in several locations to interest women in her worldview with little success until she moved to Cincinnati. She began putting together a plan where women could open their minds, their hearts and their checkbooks to benefit their community, and thus the first Impact 100 chapter was formed.

Did you ever expect Impact 100 to take over the way it did and become an 80-chapter national and international phenomenon?

Wendy said that she designed this program for the women she knew in Cincinnati but that she was thrilled with the response after an article was written in People magazine and she started getting calls from women all over the country who wanted to start a chapter.

Where do you see Impact 100 going?

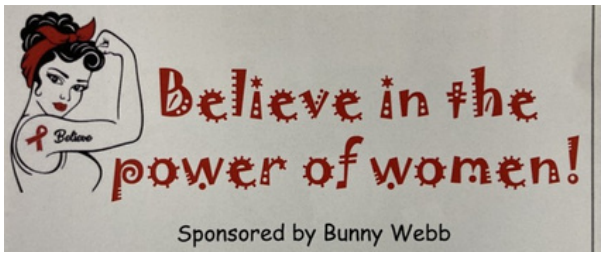
"The model that was developed in 2001 is more popular than ever before. It's like the snowball is getting bigger at a faster rate. Women love to talk about what they're passionate about and Impact 100 has a lot of passionate women both as members and as leaders."

Wendy believes that social media has definitely increased Impact 100's visibility. Where this will take us is anyone's guess.

Wendy is an interesting and inspiring woman. If you would like to find out more about her or about Impact 100 Global, go to https://impact100global.org or look for her book, *Invitation to Impact: Lighting the Path to Community Transformation*.

Janet Maffucci

Our Sponsors











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