



**"Women are stronger together!"**

**February 2026 Newsletter**

## **SOS! HELP NEEDED!**

As mentioned in past newsletters, some of our volunteers are participating in the Treasure Coast Night to Shine at the Fenn Center in Fort Pierce on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual prom for teens and adults with special needs. It is an inspiring and fun event. Each guest is assigned a "buddy" who stays with them for the entire evening to make sure they have fun and are safe. It seems that there is a waiting list of participants because there are not a sufficient number of "buddies" who have signed up. If you have been thinking about this but have not signed up, please go to [www.tcnighthtoshine.com](http://www.tcnighthtoshine.com) to do so. The deadline for the buddy sign-up is this coming Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are participating in this event, please let Janet Maffucci know ([mrsjfooch@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjfooch@gmail.com)) so that she can look for you that evening.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, the eleven members of the Executive Committee met for a Day of Retreat at IRSC. Away from the distractions of the outside world, we devoted ourselves to the work of Impact 100 St. Lucie. Now that we have reached 100 members and are in our eighth year of granting, we will be spending the next several months formulating our strategic plan and updating our marketing and advertising materials with an eye toward reaching the next level, whatever that may be. If anyone has expertise in these areas and would like to help out, please contact Janet Maffucci ([mrsjfooch@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjfooch@gmail.com)). Thank you!

## IMPACT 100 ST. LUCIE'S WISH LIST

As mentioned in December's newsletter, Impact 100 St. Lucie is looking for a social media person to promote us online and hopefully take us to the next level. If you have any expertise in this area and might be willing to help, please contact Janet Maffucci to discuss what this might entail.

We will also be looking for members who would be willing to be a liaison for new members to our organization to help them feel welcome and comfortable. More information will be coming on this next month.

## SAVE THE DATES!

- February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026-Wine tasting event at Pierce Public Market
- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026-Breakfast at Lucie Seward's home with a guest speaker
- April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026-Potluck dinner at Heathcote Botanical Gardens.
- October 24, 2026-2026 Award Celebration and Annual Meeting. Please put that date on your calendar now!
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026-Holiday luncheon at Casa Pasta

## GIVE BACK SATURDAYS

Sixteen of our members showed up at Graceway Village on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, to sort clothes for the children's boutique. In less than two hours, we were able to sort 1351 pounds of donated clothing. Great work, ladies! Thank you to Janie Tighe, Ellen Contreras, Diane Leary, Ruth Stromak, Diane Stark-Kennedy, Carol DeLoach, Janet Maffucci, Margaret Hurley, Kathy Sanders, Patty Twardy, Judy Salmon, Gwen Cunningham, Laura Stanton, Becky Fisher, Merilee Landrigan and Lisa Derryberry for their efforts that day.



### Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- February 7<sup>th</sup>-Heathcote Botanical Gardens
- February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026-4:30 to 8:30 PM-A Night to Shine at the Fenn Center in Fort Pierce-Be a buddy for a special needs teen or adult at this prom-themed event. Go to [tcnighttoshine.com](http://tcnighttoshine.com) to register by February 4th.
- March 7<sup>th</sup>-Food Bank
- April 11<sup>th</sup>-Mustard Seed (tentative)
- May 9<sup>th</sup>-The UP Center

## MEMBERSHIP

A huge thank you is due to Laurene McEneny and her committee for the planning and execution of a delightful evening for PGA Village residents and their guests with the purpose of introducing the women to Impact 100 St. Lucie. Roxy Brown was the featured speaker and clearly touched everyone with her story of the creation of CareBag and how winning Impact 100 St. Lucie's award in 2022 has helped propel her organization to great heights. It was a memorable evening.

The good news is that our membership for 2026 now stands at 55, with 18 of those memberships being new members. That means that over sixty of last year's members have not yet renewed. We ask those of you who have not yet renewed to do so sooner rather than later, if you can, to help us plan for the grant awards before the end of the membership drive. Thank you.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS

While meeting at IRSC recently, the Executive Committee was made aware of an upcoming event there for veterans. If you are a veteran or know someone who is, please spread the word about this Hobby/Volunteerism Fair.



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



### Binnie Luciano

By

Ellen Contreras

#### **A Heart for Service, Community, and Collective Impact**

Binnie Luciano first learned about Impact 100 St. Lucie through a sailing friend in Annapolis who had been involved with the organization years earlier. At first, she admits she thought Impact 100 might be an exclusive group that she wouldn't be able to be a part of. That assumption quickly changed when she was invited by Gwen Cunningham to attend a luncheon and hear about the organization's mission and the tangible impact of its grants. Seeing women come together to collectively fund meaningful change in their communities inspired her to get involved. Binnie felt warmly welcomed by this inclusive group.

Before relocating to Florida, Binnie enjoyed a long and fulfilling career, spanning thirty years, as an educator in Alexandria, Virginia. After retiring, she and her husband embraced adventure, spending years sailing along the East Coast and through the Bahamas. Over time, their travels evolved into other types of adventures including river cruises and immersive experiences that allow for deeper connections with people and places. That same appreciation for connection and community continues to guide her life today.

Binnie is deeply engaged in her local community. She leads a book club, manages her community library, and has volunteered at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens for more than fifteen years. She especially enjoys meeting people from all walks of life and believes volunteer work is a wonderful way to stay connected and give back.

Binnie is enthusiastic about the ripple effect Impact 100 St. Lucie grants have on local nonprofits, not only providing funding, but also boosting credibility and visibility within the community. Her advice to women considering membership is simple: attend a meeting and see the impact firsthand.

She also emphasizes that involvement looks different for everyone. Even those who may not have time to serve on committees are making a meaningful contribution through collective giving. "Writing a check is not 'just' writing a check," Binnie shared. "It creates real change for the organizations we support and for our community."

Thank you, Binnie, for your generous heart and your openness and for sharing those qualities with Impact 100 St. Lucie.

Be sure to visit our website ([www.impact100SL.org](http://www.impact100SL.org)) and our Facebook page.

**Impact 100 St. Lucie Executive Committee Members**

Cris Adams, Secretary  
Gwen Cunningham, Treasurer  
Caneria Gardner, Vice President  
Marsha Jones  
Janet Maffucci, President♦[mrsjfooch@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjfooch@gmail.com)♦914-424-6728  
Veronica Montoya  
Kavitha Rao  
Judy Salmon  
Diane Stark-Kennedy  
Ruth Stromak  
Dr. Lillian Torres-Martinez

**Executive Committee Members Emeriti**

Debbie Butler    Linda Chastain    Becky Fisher    Lisa Floyd  
Patricia Garcia-King    Bunny Webb    Melanie Wiles

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