



September 2026



**WOMEN ARE STRONGER
TOGETHER!**

Impact100slc.org
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From the President

As a result of our survey last spring, some changes are being implemented at Impact 100 St. Lucie and I want to bring everyone up-to-date on them. One of the changes that you will immediately notice is the format of the newsletter. The publication and presentation of the newsletter have been turned over to the Communications Committee, under the able direction of Judy Salmon. You will hear several different voices as you read instead of just mine. As president, I will update you each month on the important work that we are doing, and each committee head will present information on what her committee has done and is planning. Member Highlights will take on a new feel as well, as we streamline the articles to highlight the most significant parts of a member's life as well as their connection to Impact 100 St. Lucie.

The Executive Committee members hope that you will enjoy the changes that you will see and that you will agree that they are upgrades. If you have any suggestions or would like to become more active in the organization, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are always looking for new ideas and additional hands. In addition, we hope to see you at some of our events this year, especially the Award Celebration on October 24th where Wendy Steele, the founder and designer of the Impact 100 model, will be our keynote speaker.

Janet Maffucci

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2026 Survey Results

A few months ago, Impact 100 St. Lucie sent out a survey to its members. We were delighted to receive a 48% response to the survey and even more delighted that the responses were so positive. If you would like to read the specifics, click on [2026 Survey Analysis](#).

As a response to the survey and in an effort to bring Impact 100 St. Lucie to the “next level,” the Executive Committee has been very busy in the last few months. We have had two four-hour retreats to decide what our next goals will be, where we want to be in the next three to five years, and how to get there. We have developed a strategic plan with the help of Teresa Bishop, an expert in this field, are working to upgrade and standardize our marketing materials, have initiated an Ambassador Program to welcome our new members and keep our veteran members involved, are updating our Governing Guidelines, and are activating our Development Committee in an effort to find long-term sponsors to support the work that we are doing.

Janet Maffucci



Two Sisters House of Ceramics

On September 17, 5:30-7:30, we will be meeting at TWO SISTERS HOUSE of CERAMICS for an evening of painting your choice of a pottery piece. There's lots to choose from. Prices vary, but the glaze and firing are included. Space is limited to 35 attendees. Light snacks will be offered. After you've finished your masterpiece (or decided to finish it at home) you may decide to join friends at a local restaurant for dinner. Keep an eye out for an email for information and registration to follow in early September.

Diane Stark-Kennedy

Calendar of Events

October 24, 2026 at 10:00 am, the excitement of the Awards Celebration will begin! This is what we've waited for all year, to vote for which nonprofit will win the \$100,000 grant. The event will be held at IRSC, Fort Pierce Campus, in the Eastman Advanced Workforce Building. We have lots of room for guests, so start thinking about inviting your friends.

November 13, 2026 at 11:00 am. Alongside various nonprofits and organizations, Impact 100 St. Lucie members have been invited to THE TYKES and TEENS open house at the Project Lift Center in Fort Pierce. This extraordinary group was last year's \$100,000 grant winner. Registration information will be forwarded to everyone at a later date.

December 4, 2026 at 11:30 am. Holiday luncheon at Casa Pasta.

Give Back Saturday - Mustard Seed



On a sunny Saturday, August 8th our crew of sixteen Impact 100 women volunteered at Mustard Seed in Fort Pierce. It was a very productive and busy few hours – we filled 650 grocery bags and put together 1500 utensil packs! Thanks to Ellen Contreras, Sue Roberto Lawson, Kathy Sanders, Merilee Landrigan, Sally Eisenberg, Doretha Hair Truesdell, Valerie Hellriegel, Gwen Cunningham, Lisa Derryberry, Joanne White, Judy Salmon, Carol DeLoach, Michele Buldo, Paulina Reddy, Janet Maffucci and Ruth Stromak for making it a wonderful morning of conversation and teamwork.

Ruth Stromak



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

September 12: UP Center

October 17: Heathcote Botanical Gardens

November 14: Graceway Village

December 5: Treasure Coast Food Bank

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

Membership Committee

Hi everyone, I am the new co-chair of our Membership Committee. The keyword and the good news to me was the prefix co- !! Our Chairwoman, Veronica Montoya, leads with great vision, and I'm just hoping to do my part as her right-hand woman!

We are charged with helping to boost our membership and we need your help. Inviting someone to a get together, a volunteer opportunity, and/or especially to our annual brunch is the best way to show off our organization. That's how we show firsthand the impact women can make when we work together for a common cause! We are our own best advertisement for new members. Ask any one of us what struck a chord that made us want to join and continue our membership year after year. This is exactly what we need to express when chatting with a prospective new member. Next, share with them how it FEELS to know we have made a huge difference in other people's lives. If every member, and we have 116 now, can bring in one new member, we will far exceed our goal of 200 within the next 5 years and be able to make an even greater impact by being able to support more than one local nonprofit. Please remember that there are scholarships available for those who cannot afford the annual fee. Also, when you break down the cost to join, we are talking about three dollars a day, \$21 a week, the cost of one lunch out per week!



We've got 10 months to make it happen—LET'S DO IT!

Merilee Landrigan



Member Highlight



Maggie Cook

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Maggie couldn't resist the lure of the palm trees she saw in a University of Miami brochure and found herself spending four years there to earn her accounting degree. Following that by working toward her MBA at Florida International University in Miami, Maggie spent a total of twelve years in Miami. However, during the course of her almost 35-year career, Maggie moved across the country sixteen times before retiring at age 52 to enjoy life fulltime in Florida.

After retirement, she and Conrad, her husband of twenty years, made Fort Pierce their home with their much-loved dog Sophie,

and Maggie began her second life, bringing beauty into the world around her. For many years, she worked as a master gardener and instructor in St. Lucie County, winning many statewide and local gardening awards, and she has been an active volunteer at Heathcote for the past ten years. Not one to rest on her laurels, Maggie is also an accomplished potter with her works on display at the Second Street Art Gallery in Fort Pierce and at Walton and One in Port St. Lucie. Maggie has also studied watercolor painting at the Vero Beach Museum and is looking forward to studying acrylics as well.

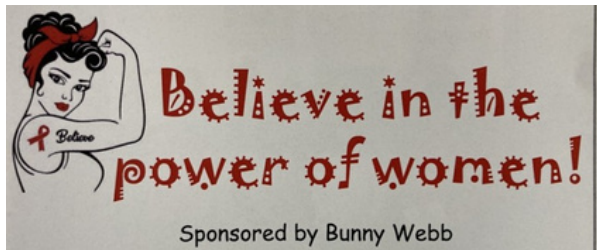
When asked how she became involved with Impact 100 St. Lucie, she said that her good friend, Cris Adams, invited her to the Award Celebration in 2024 and she was so moved by the presentations of the finalists that she decided that she wanted to be part of the change that Impact 100 St. Lucie brings to the non-profits in St. Lucie County. The idea of banding together with other women to help people in the community appeals to

her as well. She particularly likes the fact that, very often, the organizations that Impact 100 St. Lucie helps are smaller non-profits without significant donors backing them.

Maggie is a woman who backs up her words with actions. In addition to paying her membership donation for the past two years, Maggie is also an ardent supporter of our operating fund and her donations to that fund allowed us to offer scholarships to qualified applicants last year. She also is constantly on the lookout for new members for Impact 100 St. Lucie. Maggie and Conrad recently moved to a community in Vero Beach but her heart, as well as many friends, are still in St. Lucie County and she plans to remain a member of our organization. Thank you, Maggie, for your generosity and your enthusiasm for the mission of Impact 100 St. Lucie. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have you with us.

Janet Maffucci

Our Sponsors



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