



"Women are stronger together!"

June 2026 Newsletter

HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

In three days, we will celebrate the 250th birthday of our country, an experiment in freedom started by a group of men who believed in the power of democratic principles and the ability of humans to set their own course without the autocratic rule of kings. Despite the turmoil and division in our country right now, democratic rule has survived for 250 years. This year, let us all celebrate the good in where we have come from and where we are now and continue to hope for the best in where we are going. May you all have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

THE GRANT PROCESS HAS BEGUN!

All Letters of Intent (LOIs) were due to the Community Foundation office by June 29th and 28 LOIs were received. However, only 22 LOIs have been sent to the Grant Review Committee members at this point. A couple of organizations didn't qualify for the grant and we are awaiting updated information on the others to see if they are eligible. The approved 22 LOIs are currently in the hands of the twelve Grant Review Committee members who will spend the next few weeks reviewing and rating them. On July 29th, the group will come together to discuss their ratings and decide which non-profits will be asked to move on to the next level and submit full applications. That update will appear in the August newsletter.

WELCOME TO IMPACT 100 ST. LUCIE'S SOCIAL MEDIA GURU!

Impact 100 St. Lucie is proud to announce that it has found its social media wizard. Ellen Contreras has been a longtime supporter of Impact 100 St. Lucie despite the fact that her roots are in Vero Beach. She is an accomplished radio/podcast talk show host, a business feature writer and communication strategist and has written several "Member Highlights" articles for this newsletter. Ellen has an extensive knowledge of, and practical experience in, social media and will definitely increase recognition of the Impact 100 St. Lucie brand on the Treasure Coast. In recognition of the extensive services that Ellen will be rendering to our organization, she has been awarded a full membership for 2026.



OUR MEMBERSHIP TOTAL FOR 2026!

Our membership drive for 2026 officially ended on June 30th. However, there are two or three outstanding payments that will be arriving in the next week. That being said, we are pleased to announce that our membership for 2026 right now stands at 108, with the possibility of reaching 110 to 112. We'll have a definite number in the August newsletter. Thank you so much to all of you who continue to support the work that we are doing in St. Lucie County.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

On June 11th. 25 members and friends of Impact 100 St. Lucie visited the Highwaymen Museum, 1234 Avenue D, in Fort Pierce. We had an interesting and informative tour and heard wonderful stories of our local, infamous Highwaymen whose works are very researched by collectors. Working up an appetite, we had a scatter lunch with everyone going in their own direction. Several of us went to Cobbs Landing and enjoyed waterfront dining

Highwaymen Museum



To kick-off our 2026-2027 membership drive, the next event is on July 30th at 5:30 PM at Dave and Busters, 2270 SW Gatlin Blvd. in Port St. Lucie. Spouses, partners and friends are welcome to join in the fun. Before you think that this is just going to be a noisy event, let me tell you that we have a soundproof room and we will be playing bingo (\$20/5 games) for prizes, auctioning gift baskets and other items, enjoying food off the menu and just having a good time. We will be hosting "Christmas in July" for LITTLE BIRTHDAY ANGELS, an organization that provides birthday gifts for homeless children. See the link below for suggestions for donations.

Last year, everyone who attended "Christmas in July" at Dave and Buster's said they couldn't wait to do it again, so here's your chance. Mark your calendars! Hope to see you there!

Monthly Collections



Other events to note:

- A September event in the planning stages
- October 24th, 2026-2026 Award Celebration and Annual Meeting at 10:00 AM. Keynote address by Wendy Steele, the founder of the Impact 100 model. Please put that date on your calendar now!
- December 4th, 2026-Holiday luncheon at Casa Pasta in downtown Fort Pierce at 11:30 AM

GIVE BACK SATURDAYS

On Saturday, June 20th, we had a crew of thirteen women who volunteered at Graceway Village in Fort Pierce. We appreciate the hard work of Crystal Samuel, Diane Leary, Merilee Landrigan, Judy Salmon, Janet Maffucci, Pat Tweardy, Emily Flowers-Yahn, Lisa Derryberry, Sally Eisenberg, Gwen Cunningham, Ruth Stromak,

Ellen Contreras, and Diane Stark-Kennedy. It was a wonderful morning of conversation and teamwork as we packed food bags, sorted donations, and folded newsletters.

Our next volunteer opportunity will be at the Treasure Coast Food Bank on Saturday, July 11th. Please contact Ruth Stromak at rstromak48@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

Upcoming dates:

- August 8th: Mustard Seed
- September 5th: UP Center
- October (tentative): Heathcote Botanical Gardens



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Andrea Virtuoso

by

Ellen Contreras

A Heart for Service, Community, and Connection

Q: Tell us a bit about your background and how you became involved with Impact 100 St. Lucie.

When speaking with Andrea Virtuoso, one thing becomes immediately clear: helping others has been a guiding force throughout her life.

Originally from Niagara Falls, NY, Andrea later moved with her husband Ken to Rome, NY after college, where she built a meaningful career working with developmentally disabled individuals in residential facilities and group homes. Andrea earned her bachelor's degree in speech pathology from SUNY Geneseo and later received her master's degree in communications disorders from SUNY Buffalo.

Over the years, she also became deeply involved with community programming and fundraising through organizations such as the Rome Family YMCA. "It was very rewarding to see how giving people could be," Andrea shared while reflecting on the fundraising and volunteer work she participated in over the years. "People really came together to support others."

Andrea and her husband have been married for 55 years and have built a life centered around family, friendship, and community involvement. Their daughter lives in Kuna, ID, outside of Boise, where she works as a special education teacher. Andrea also proudly shared that her grandson is an avid rock climber who travels extensively, including internationally, for competitions.

After retiring, Andrea and her husband relocated to Florida in 2004 after visiting friends who had family in Port St. Lucie. During those visits, they quickly fell in love with the Treasure Coast and the welcoming atmosphere of the community.

Andrea joined Impact 100 St. Lucie County in January of 2026. She had met chapter president Janet Maffucci years ago through the Cascades Travel Club, and reconnected with her through a mutual friend, Susan Lausen. Susan told Andrea about Impact 100 SLC and asked her to join her at a party at Janet's home and later a networking breakfast at Denny's with members. Andrea decided to officially join the non-profit.

“There are so many wonderful people here who truly care,” she said. “It’s wonderful to see people helping people.”

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Andrea and her husband enjoy spending time together boating, swimming, reading, and traveling. As snow-birds, they divide their time between Florida and northern New York on the beautiful St. Lawrence River, where they enjoy being on the water and visiting nearby Canada. She describes the slower pace and peaceful surroundings as something she especially treasures during the summer months.

Andrea also enjoys meeting new people, building friendships, and staying involved in causes that make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Q: What are your thoughts about organizations like Impact 100 St. Lucie?

Andrea believes organizations like Impact 100 St. Lucie County play an important role in strengthening the community and helping those in need. Throughout the conversation, she spoke passionately about volunteerism, compassion, and the importance of making people feel seen, valued, and supported.

“People can volunteer and feel good about themselves for doing it,” she said. “It’s wonderful around here how people help each other.”

As she looks ahead to becoming more involved with Impact 100 St. Lucie, Andrea says she is grateful for the opportunity to connect with such caring and community-minded women. “It’s wonderful to be part of something where people genuinely want to make a difference,” she shared.

Be sure to visit our website (www.impact100slc.org) and our Facebook page.

Impact 100 St. Lucie Executive Committee Members

Cris Adams, Secretary
Gwen Cunningham, Treasurer
Marsha Jones
Janet Maffucci, President ♦mrsjfooch@gmail.com ♦914-424-6728
Veronica Montoya
Judy Salmon
Rene Smith
Diane Stark-Kennedy
Ruth Stromak
Dr. Lillian Torres-Martinez
Andrea Virtuoso

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