



"Women are stronger together!"

June 2026 Newsletter

EXCITING NEWS!

Our Annual Meeting and Award Celebration will be held this year on Saturday, October 24th, from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Impact 100 St. Lucie is excited to announce that the keynote address will be given by Wendy Steele, the founder and designer of the Impact 100 model. Wendy is a captivating and inspiring speaker and we are honored that she will be part of our celebration this year. Mark your calendar now and plan to be there!!

THE GRANT PROCESS BEGINS!

The grant application process officially opened today and St. Lucie County non-profits have four weeks to submit their letters of intent for review. The women who will serve on the Grant Review Committee this year are: Cris Adams, Michele Buldo, Carol Deloach, Lisa Derryberry, Lisa Floyd, Mary Jane Hopkins, Marsha Jones, Merilee Landrigan, Janet Maffucci, Carolyn Niemczyk, Kathy Sanders, Diane Stark-Kennedy, and Lillian Torres-Martinez. This service requires several meetings and too many hours to count but forms the crux of what Impact 100 St. Lucie does. We are supremely indebted to these women for offering their time for this endeavor.

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

The Impact 100 Executive Committee would like to welcome our two newest additions. Rene Smith has been a longtime active member of Impact 100 St. Lucie who participates in most of our social and volunteer events, has offered her services on the Grant Review Committee and has displayed a strong affinity for our mission. She will add a remarkable perspective and set of skills to our team.

Andrea Virtuoso is a relatively new member of Impact 100 St. Lucie with an impressive background and list of experiences. The members of the Executive Committee believe that her "newness" is a strong asset that can bring to us a different perspective on our goals and how we are attempting to reach them. We sincerely thank both of these ladies for offering their talents to us.



Rene



Andrea



We are also thrilled to announce that Diane Stark-Kennedy, our Events chair, has agreed to fill the Vice President's role. Thankfully, she will also continue to chair our Events Committee. Thank you, Diane.

A TIMELY REMINDER!

This note is to remind you that Impact 100 St. Lucie's 2025-26 Membership Drive will end on June 30th. If you are a current member who wants to be able to vote in October but have not yet renewed for this year or someone who hopes to vote this year but has not yet officially joined, please send in your membership donation before June 30th. Go to our website (www.impact100slc.org) to learn how to join.

The Membership Committee has been contacting current members who have not yet renewed. If you are a current member and have decided not to renew, please email Janet Maffucci at mrsjfooch@gmail.com to let us know so that we will not continue to call you. Thank you.

A MILESTONE REACHED!

On May 2nd, several of Cris Adams's family members and friends gathered at Heathcote Botanical Gardens to help her celebrate her 90th birthday. Cris is a stalwart fixture in St. Lucie County, known by many for her wisdom, insights and involvement with many non-profits over the years. Impact 100 St. Lucie is so lucky to have her as the secretary of the Executive Committee and the driving force and voice of reason behind many of our initiatives. Happy 90th birthday, Cris! We wish you many more years of good health and happiness and we all want to be invited to your 100th birthday!



SAVE THE DATES!

- June 11, 2026-The Original Highwaymen Museum guided tour at 11:00 AM. Look for your invitation in your email today!
- July 30, 2026-"Christmas in July" at Dave and Buster's at 5:30 PM for our annual kickoff celebration
- October 24, 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 at 11:30 AM

GIVE BACK SATURDAYS

On Saturday, May 9th, our hardworking crew of eleven showed up at the UP Center to clean and organize their shelves. Our thanks to Merilee Landrigan, Carol Deloach, Ruth Stromak, Patty Tweardy, Val Hellriegel, Paulina Reddy, Judy Salmon, Gwen Cunningham, Janet Maffucci and Lisa Derryberry for their time and efforts. Impact 100 St. Lucie was also presented with a certificate of appreciation from the UP Center for "being part of their village."



We also had the opportunity in May to help with the RLE GoForeIt golf event. Eight of Impact 100 St. Lucie's members and friends drove young golfers around the St. Lucie Trails golf course on a beautiful day as they watched and learned from experienced golfers and had the opportunity to

putt on some of the holes. Thank you to Sharon Davis, Laurene McEneny, Rene Smith, Diane Leary, Jan Allen, Mary Mancuso, Janet Maffucci and Aislinn Pitchford for their time that day.



Our next volunteer opportunity will be at Graceway Village on Saturday, June 20th. Please contact Ruth Stromak at rstromak48@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- June 20th -Graceway Village
- July 11th-Food Bank
- August 8th-Mustard Seed Ministries

AN INVITATION FROM IMPACT 100 GLOBAL!

Impact 100 Global is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and is hosting a virtual celebration on June 23rd at 3:00 PM. Everyone is invited to share in this celebration which will highlight the stories, women and collective giving that have shaped the Impact 100 movement over the years. If you wish to participate, please hit "ctrl" and click on the link to register:

[Impact100 25th Anniversary Event - Impact100 Global](#)

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Achara Marshall

by

Janet Maffucci

Achara Marshall is a rarity in this writer's limited experience—a native Floridian. Born and raised in Fort Pierce, Achara has spent her life living, studying (FAU for her BA and Nova Southeastern for her MBA) and working in Florida. She has a younger sister who lives locally as well and “niece and nephew dogs.” Achara also shared that she has a 22-year-old son who is studying neuroscience and plans to become a plastic surgeon.

Achara has been in the energy industry at FPL for twenty-two years. For the first fourteen years, she worked in the nuclear business unit. She is currently a senior manager for business operations at FPL, where she manages special projects and programs within Florida. This is a positive change from her previous role of supporting national customers with construction projects and outages which often required travel to different locations at a moment's notice.

Achara has a giving spirit; she loves volunteering and helping others. She has been a member of many non-profit boards over the years and currently serves on the board of 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, a resource hotline, as well as being a committee member for The Community Foundation Martin-St. Lucie, Impact 100 St. Lucie's fiscal agent.

Her outside activities include reading, listening to podcasts, Pilates, spin and hi-impact training.

Achara was introduced to Impact 100 St. Lucie a couple of years ago at a PGA Village Meet and Greet. A believer in giving back to her local community, she was attracted to the idea of getting to know about three great non-profits each year and of being able to vote on where the grant was going. When asked about what keeps her coming back to Impact 100 St. Lucie, she simply stated, "It's about how you can help someone, how to give someone an opportunity they might not have had without that help."

Achara is a busy and dedicated woman with a generous heart. We are so glad that she has blessed the non-profits of St. Lucie County with that generosity through her membership in Impact 100 St. Lucie.

Be sure to visit our website (www.impact100SL.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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