October 2026

WOMEN ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

Impact100slc.org
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From the President

As you all know, the need in St. Lucie County has always been great and, with recent and pending cuts to government funding and higher prices on everything, it is only becoming greater. It was a difficult challenge for the Grant Review committee to winnow ten applicants down to three finalists and it will be a difficult decision for each of you, our members, to decide which of the three finalists should get your vote.

This year we will be giving all members advance information on the finalists so that you can do some research and planning on each of them, if you'd like. Those who are not attending the celebration will also be given the opportunity to vote online. I hope that you will all take advantage of this opportunity to fully learn about the project and the urgency that spurs it.

Impact 100 St. Lucie is also proud to say that, in addition to our $100,000 grant, we will be awarding $10,000 to our second and third place finalists this year.

Finally, if you see any of the members who joined me on the Grant Review Committee, please thank them for their time and dedication. They are Cris Adams. Michele Buldo, Carol DeLoach, Lisa Derryberry, Lisa Floyd, Mary Jane Hopkins, Marsha Jones, Merilee Landrigan, Kathy Sanders, Diane Stark-Kennedy and Lillian Torres-Martinez. Their work forms the crux of what we do and leads to the culmination of our year.

Janet Maffucci

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Grant Review

This has been a very busy month for the twelve members of the Grant Review Committee. The process started on August 25th with the receipt of ten lengthy applications and continued on September 16th with a meeting to determine which of the applicants would move forward to the semi-finalist stage.

By the end of the meeting, six semi-finalists had been identified: GracePacks, Graceway Village, HANDS Clinic, Helping People Succeed, SafeSpace and The ARC of the Treasure Coast.

Committee members spent three days, September 23rd, 24th and 25th, visiting each of the semi-finalists to learn more about the programs for which they were asking the grant and the urgent need for that program in St. Lucie County. This in-person visit gives each member the opportunity to ask specific questions to help with the final determination of the three finalists.

On September 30th, the committee came together to discuss what they learned and to decide who the finalists should be.

Janet Maffucci



2026 Grant Finalists

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the three finalists for Impact 100 St. Lucie's 2026 $100, 000 grant are:

1. **HANDS** (St. Lucie County Health Access Network Inc.)-to hire a full-time dental hygienist to serve the needs of their clients

2. **SafeSpace**-to hire an outreach co-ordinator and purchase a transportation van to meet the increasing demand for domestic violence services in St. Lucie County

3. **The ARC of the Treasure Coast**-to fully implement the Therapeutic Intervention Program (T.I.P.) for children and adults with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities in Port St. Lucie

Janet Maffucci

Wendy Steele
Special Guest Speaker

The Special Guest Speaker at our Award Celebration and Annual Meeting, Wendy Steele, is a dedicated philanthropist, passionate entrepreneur, and inspiring speaker. She is the founder of Impact 100, a grassroots global movement that has given away nearly $178 million since its inception in 2001. From a young age, her family instilled in her the value of giving back with the intention of leaving the world a little better than she found it, leading Steele to dedicate much of her adult life encouraging generosity in all its forms.

2026 Award Celebration and Annual Meeting



Make your reservation now by clicking on the image.

October 24, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.at the Eastman Advanced Training Center at IRSC, S. 31st St. just off Cortez Blvd. in Fort Pierce. This is the event you don't want to miss.

Those in attendance will hear from Wendy Steele, the founder of the Impact 100 model, and Anne Posey, who will update us on how Tykes & Teens has been using last year's grant award as well as the final three contenders for this year's $100,000 grant.

Only Impact 100 St. Lucie members are eligible to vote for their favorite presenting nonprofit. The suspense and excitement is energizing! The winning organization will be announced once the vote count is completed. If you are unable to attend, you will be receiving information via email about the finalists and be able to cast your vote online.

Invitations were sent out on September 23rd. Please respond and bring guests to experience this uplifting event. If you didn't receive an invitation, please click on the above invitation to register

Diane Stark-Kennedy

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. Registration information will be forwarded to everyone at a later date.

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.

February 4, 2027 at 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. Bring in the New Year with Impact 100 St. Lucie members and friends, at Paradise Waterfront Café on Melody Lane in Fort Pierce. A new location overlooking the beautiful Indian River, our hosts from last year will offer wine tasting and a savory spread of hot and cold appetizers

I am working on lots of new fun activities and get-togethers in 2027. If you would like to join this committee or have suggestions to offer, please contact me.

Diane Stark-Kennedy
772-979-0903

Give Back Saturday - UP Center





Thanks to our fantastic crew for their hard work on September 12th at The UP Center in Fort Pierce. In three hours, our team cleaned, sorted, rearranged shelves, and checked barcodes. Special thanks to Diane Leary, Merilee Landrigan, Judy Salmon, Janet Maffucci, Pat Tweady, Lisa Derryberry, Gwen Cunningham, Jill Borchetta, Ellen Contreras, and Ruth Stromak for their dedicated help!

Ruth Stromak

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

October 17: Heathcote Botanical Gardens Garden Fest. A wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning assisting where needed and an opportunity to check out the many beautiful plants for sale.
November 14: Graceway Village
December 5: Treasure Coast Food Bank

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

Two Sisters House of Ceramics





Twenty talented and budding artists attended the Two Sisters House of Ceramics social on September 17th. Lots of creative designs, interesting conversations and laughter kept us busy on this fun evening.

Diane Stark-Kennedy



Membership Committee

Hello to our amazing Impact 100 ladies!

Can you believe October is already here? It's my favorite time of year—not only because the weather begins to cool down, but because so many of our wonderful Impact 100 friends start returning to our beautiful state. Welcome back!

This past month, Janet, our fearless leader, and the Executive Committee have been busy revamping our literature and developing a new tri-fold brochure to help spread the word about Impact 100 St. Lucie.

And ladies, we have a BIG GOAL—200 WOMEN STRONG!

Why not us? Martin County has over 400 women, and we can grow too! Imagine if each of us invited just ONE friend, family member, neighbor, or coworker who shares our passion for helping others.

If someone comes to mind, don't wait! Make the call, send the text, or invite her to an event. A personal invitation can make all the difference.

And remember, you do not have to live in St. Lucie County to join our chapter!
Let's spread the word, grow our membership, and make Impact 100 St. Lucie known throughout our community

WE CAN DO THIS!

Veronica Montoya



2025 Award Celebration & Annual Meeting

Member Highlight



Kathy Sanders

Kathy's quiet demeanor belies her go-getter attitude in life. Born and raised in Chicago as one of seven siblings, she and her husband Jim moved to Pompano Beach in 1971 shortly after getting married and she has never looked back.

In 1982, they moved their young family (a daughter and a son) to Port Saint Lucie where their daughter still resides. They spent many years there, enjoying time with their children and their three grandchildren, until 2018 when Kathy retired and they decided to move to Lake Placid, Florida.

Although Kathy and Jim always enjoyed traveling, mostly cruising, they decided to purchase a motor home and travel the country. They spent about forty days traveling and stopping whenever the mood struck, and Kathy will tell you that it was the best trip of her life, although they enjoyed many RV trips up and down the east coast and into the Midwest with other family RVers.

Unfortunately, traveling and living in Lake Placid were short-lived as Kathy lost Jim in 2021. She decided to come back to Port St. Lucie to be closer to her children and, in 2022, bought a home in the Cascades.

Not one to let the grass grow beneath her feet, Kathy involved herself in some of the many activities and clubs that the Cascades offers. She was on the Travel Club for about a year and is currently the chair of the Community Connections Committee, a group that seeks to ensure that new residents know what amenities and clubs are available to them.

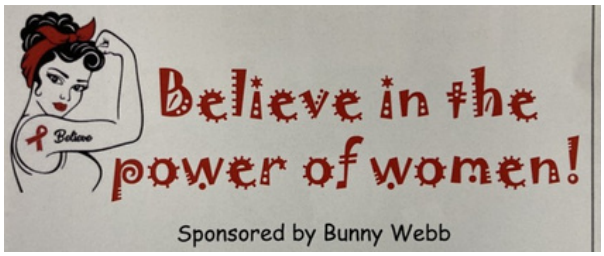
When asked what brought her to Impact 100 St. Lucie, Kathy immediately said, "Gwen" (Cunningham, our treasurer). She said that she attended our breakfast at Denny's in March and was touched by Angel Pietsch's description of the mission of Little Birthday Angels. It is important to Kathy that the time that she donates has a visible impact on something or someone, that she can see that impact in what she is doing, and Impact 100 St. Lucie fulfills that desire.

Kathy is definitely making an impact in our organization. She is an active member of the Volunteer Committee and is giving hours of her time on the Grant Review Committee.

Thank you, Kathy, for your time and dedication. We are delighted that you want to share your resources with our organization.

Janet Maffucci

Our Sponsors













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