



*"Women are stronger together!"*

April 2026 Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to begin by thanking every member who took the time to respond to Impact 100 St. Lucie's survey last month. We had a 44% return which I'm told is very good. This is your organization and I'm glad that so many of you are invested in it. We are still analyzing the results, but one thing stood out immediately from your comments. We need to do a better job of making our new members feel welcome and part of our organization. The Executive Committee realized this even before the survey was sent out. That is why, in last month's newsletter, we talked about the Ambassador Program being headed up by Veronica Montoya. We still need ambassadors.

We have five women who have joined the program and Veronica will be contacting some of you who have been recommended as an ambassador, but we would like more to join. As they say, many hands make light work and the more ambassadors we have, the fewer will be the number of members each ambassador will have assigned to her.

There will be two components to the program. In addition to reaching out to new members, some of you will be asked to reach out to current members whom we haven't seen in a while to make sure that they are doing well and to invite them to our events.

If you are interested in helping to keep our organization vibrant and growing, I ask you to consider becoming one of our ambassadors. I am convinced that this program is crucial to our future success. Thank you.

Janet

## ***A WELL-DESERVED THANK YOU AND AN OPPORTUNITY!***

The Executive Committee regretfully has accepted the resignation of Kavitha Rao from their committee. Kavitha has served on the board for several years, most notably in charge of social events for an extended period. She has also been a strong advocate for Impact 100 St. Lucie, bringing in several new members. Kavitha will continue to be a vital part of our organization but, with the recent retirement of her husband and the prospect of extended travel in front of her, Kavitha feels that it is time to step away from the Executive Committee. We sincerely thank her for her dedication to Impact 100 St. Lucie and wish her much enjoyment in this new stage of her life.

That being said, we now come to the OPPORTUNITY! Impact 100 St. Lucie now has an opening on our Executive Committee and is looking for someone to step up to fill this space. A couple of you mentioned in our survey that you are interested in a leadership position in our organization. Here is your chance. Unfortunately, we don't know who you are since the surveys are anonymous, so the ball is in your court. Any active member is eligible to join.

If you are interested in joining Impact 100 St. Lucie's Executive Committee and want more information, please contact Janet Maffucci at [mrsjfooch@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjfooch@gmail.com) or 914-424-6728 to find out the specifics of what would be involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

## ***WE'RE STILL LOOKING AND HOPING!***

Impact 100 St. Lucie is still 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.

## **A TIMELY REMINDER!**

Impact 100 St. Lucie has three months left in its 2026 membership drive. Although we have 23 new members, we also have about 45 members from 2025 who have not yet renewed their membership. Over the past few years, we have received several emails from members asking when they are supposed to send in their membership donation or whether they had yet sent it in. With that in mind, over the next couple of days, Impact 100 St. Lucie will be sending out a reminder email and renewal form to those of you who have not yet sent in your donation that will allow you to vote in 2026. We ask that you please complete the form and mail it in with your check at your earliest convenience. We currently have 73 members signed up for this year and hope to reach well over 100 within the next couple of months. Please send in your renewal and help us reach that goal! Thank you.

## **BREAKFAST AT DENNY'S**

Despite several glitches that promised to thwart our efforts to get together in March (We did after all plan this for Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!), our breakfast at Denny's on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, was enjoyed by all who attended. We had two attendees who actually became impromptu guest speakers and were warmly welcomed by everyone.

The first was Veronica Kolibab, the Director of Business Development for Project LIFT, our 2021 grant winner. Project LIFT has been expanding their services in all the areas that they serve. They are no longer at the small building on Georgia Avenue in Fort Pierce but have relocated to a spacious building on Atlantic Avenue in Fort Pierce. Their programs for teens at risk are thriving and they now offer training in forklift operation and will soon begin training in welding.

The second speaker was Angel Pietsch, the director of Little Birthday Angels. Her organization provides birthday gifts for homeless children in the area. There are about 3,000 homeless children on the Treasure Coast. Many of our members were moved by Angel's words and asked for information about volunteering with Little Birthday Angels. Impact 100 St. Lucie is considering sponsoring this small but vital organization at our Christmas in July event at Dave and Buster's in July.



## **SAVE THE DATES!**

- April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026-Potluck dinner at Heathcote Botanical Gardens at 5:30 PM
- July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026-"Christmas in July" at Dave and Buster's at 5:30 for our annual kickoff celebration
- October 24, 2026-2026 Award Celebration and Annual Meeting at 10:00 AM. Please put that date on your calendar now!
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026-Holiday luncheon at Casa Pasta at 11:30 AM

## ***GIVE BACK SATURDAYS***

On Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, thirteen industrious volunteers showed up at the Treasure Coast Food Bank to help sort and pack food and other items. Our thanks to Becky Fisher, Gwen Cunningham, Judy Salmon, Diane Stark-Kennedy, Carol DeLoach, Sally Eisenberg, Merilee Landrigan, Rene Smith, Patty Tweardy, Lisa Derryberry, Aislinn Pitchford, Ruth Stromak and Sam Fisher for their hard work that day.



The next volunteer opportunity will be at Mustard Seed on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Ruth Stromak at [rstromak48@gmail.com](mailto:rstromak48@gmail.com).

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- April 18<sup>th</sup>-Mustard Seed
- May 9<sup>th</sup>-The UP Center
- June 20<sup>th</sup> -Graceway Village
- July 11<sup>th</sup>-Food Bank

## ***AN UNEXPECTED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!***

Last year Impact 100 St. Lucie was asked to help the RLE Go Fore It Foundation with their local fundraiser. This organization offers guidance, mentorship and scholarship to teens by making golf accessible to youth,

especially those from diverse backgrounds. The fundraiser gives the teens the chance to meet and spend the morning with adult donors/golfers. They are looking for eight of us to serve as golf cart drivers for this event on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 until about noon. If you are willing to give your time to this event, please email Janet Maffucci at [mrsjfooch@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjfooch@gmail.com). Thank you.

## SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Marilyn Lawless this past month. Marilyn was a longtime member and supporter of Impact 100 St. Lucie. She was very active in the first few years but was unable to continue that activity in the last couple of years due to ongoing health issues. Marilyn was a well-known figure in St. Lucie County and will be greatly missed.

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



MaryAnn Ketcham

by

Vicki Hoyos

If you've attended a nonprofit gala, community fundraiser, or special event along the Treasure Coast, there's a good chance you've seen MaryAnn Ketcham nearby with a camera in hand and a smile on her face.

MaryAnn is well known throughout the community as an event photographer who has a gift for capturing moments that matter. Whether it's a big celebration or a quiet interaction between friends, her photos help tell the story of the people and organizations that make our area so special.

Originally from New York, MaryAnn moved to Florida 19 years ago and quickly became part of the local community. She and her husband, Don, Director of Telecom for HSA, raised twins, a son and a daughter, who now both teach locally. It's clear that giving back and supporting the community runs in the family.

While many people know MaryAnn for her event photography, her love of photography goes far beyond the events she covers. She especially enjoys wildlife photography and taking photos while traveling. Having traveled extensively, one of her most memorable trips was to Antarctica. She describes the experience as "mind blowing," surrounded by massive icebergs and incredible wildlife including penguins, seals, and whales. Iceland is another favorite destination and a place she has visited several times.

When she's not photographing an event or traveling, MaryAnn enjoys spending time outdoors walking or riding her bike. She also enjoys relaxing on her back porch with a crossword puzzle.

MaryAnn has been a member and supporter of Impact 100 for several years and enjoys being part of an organization that makes a real difference in the community. When asked how she encourages others to join, her response is both thoughtful and fun.

"Being part of Impact allows you to make a bigger impact for a charity and the community," she says. "The initial fee may seem like a lot upfront but, when you break it down over 12 months, it really isn't. Sometimes we spend more on coffee but here it's mission and, besides, all the cool kids are doing it."

With her bubbly personality and her camera always ready, MaryAnn continues to capture the moments that make our community shine. Thanks, MaryAnn, for being one of the cool kids.

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  
Canieria Gardner, Vice President  
Marsha Jones

Janet Maffucci, President ♦ [mrsjfooch@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjfooch@gmail.com) ♦ 914-424-6728

Veronica Montoya  
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    Kavitha Rao    Bunny Webb    Melanie Wiles

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