



PO Box 1903,
Fairhope, Alabama 36533

Impact 100 Baldwin County MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2018

Calendar

JUST FOR FUN

OCTOBER 10 GREEN GATES MARKET
4:30 801 North Section
Fairhope

ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 1 ANNUAL MEETING
4:30 Daphne Civic Center
2603 US Highway 98
Daphne

MEMBERSHIP KICK-OFF

NOVEMBER 29 KICK-OFF
5:00 Baldwin County Board
of Realtors
23280 County Road 65
Robertsdale

Mission Statement

Impact 100 Baldwin County is a community of women seeking to transform lives in Baldwin County by awarding high impact grants to nonprofits in the areas of Arts and Culture • Education • Environment, Preservation and Recreation • Family • Health and Wellness.

From our President

In writing this letter, I am awaiting the list of finalists for the 2018 grants year. By the time this newsletter is published, those finalists will have been announced, but I know that my feelings of anticipation, however strong, cannot come close to equaling what our applicants must be feeling! Some will be elated... remember, each finalist has a 50 percent chance of receiving a \$91,000 grant. Some will be disappointed, knowing that their dreams will not be realized this year. But we at Impact 100 know that this is but a temporary setback.



Melanie Harris

On November 1st, we will have awarded more than three million dollars to Baldwin County nonprofits. Many of those will have applied several times, with some even making it to the podium, only to walk away empty handed, before receiving their golden ticket. This is my message to those who may not be awarded a grant this year and to you, our loyal members: We are not going away. We will be here supporting our local nonprofit organizations and making Baldwin County a better place to live and raise our children and grandchildren. We won't stop until the day there is no need. We will join together, women with a common purpose, and stand for those who cannot stand for themselves. We know that many times it is but an accident of birth or circumstance that separates those served by our nonprofit organizations and ourselves.

Before we attend the annual meeting this year, we will already have begun planning membership events for 2019. We have implemented a payment plan for those who cannot or chose not to write a check for the entire membership fee in one payment. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join us, to be a part of what we do. There is no better feeling in the world than to attend the annual meeting and see what we do first hand. Let's share that experience!

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Women Making an Impact

Michelle Thomason

Impact member and Baldwin County Presiding District Judge, Michelle Thomason, has been a member of Impact for seven years. She has served on focus groups and on the Hospitality Committee. Because of her busy schedule, Michelle really appreciates the flexibility Impact 100 affords her, allowing her to be as involved as she is able, depending upon her schedule.



As Presiding District Judge in Baldwin County, Michelle Thomason sees, first-hand, many of the most difficult issues people face every day, so she very much appreciates the Impact 100 grants which address substantive family issues. But she is also a firm supporter of the arts and very much appreciates the arts & culture grants Impact 100 makes, as well. In other words, Impact's ability to address community needs, no matter what they are, is one of the things she appreciates about Impact. Especially since "there are community projects that desperately need funding that couldn't get it any other way."

"I am very proud of how seriously Impact 100 members take their assignments in focus groups to make the very best use of the funds available, and how those funds change the landscape of our County. While

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there are many worthwhile causes we fund that people don't necessarily see every day, (when talking about Impact) I

try to point out the obvious ones, and the ones that hit home the most for me as a family court judge: The Lighthouse, Carehouse, The Family Center, Under his Wings, the Book Mobile, etc."

Michelle has served on the bench since 2006. The majority of her District Court cases involve children and families, but she also presides over the Baldwin County Veterans Court, one of the first of its kind in Alabama, which she started in 2014. Michelle was named Judge of the Year by the Alabama State Bar, Family Law Section, in 2016.

Michelle has a business degree from the University of Mobile and was in banking and finance for over 10 years before she went to Tulane School of Law. She and her husband, Tony, live in Fairhope. Her son, Jonathan Hart, is the pastor at Robertsedale United Methodist Church. She has two grandchildren, with one on the way.

Michelle became an Impact member seven years ago after learning about it from Frances Holk-Jones. "It was the first I had ever heard about Impact 100. I was immediately impressed. I knew from the momentum I

saw in the leadership of this group that it was something I wanted to be a part of."

Since joining, Michelle has served on focus groups and on different committees. "I love that I can be a part of something so big and so meaningful and can choose how much to participate. I would love to be a part of a focus group every year, but it won't always work with my schedule. And leadership makes sure you truly feel that you can be fully involved, or not at all, and not feel guilty about it if you aren't."

Michelle believes in the collective impact, the transformational power, of Impact 100. "It is easy to give \$1,000 in a year's time to various groups in small increments. Truthfully, giving that way, your donations will have little bearing on the big picture. But when those donations are intentionally combined with other \$1,000 donations, big things start to happen. There is no way that \$2.6 million dollars invested in one community doesn't make a HUGE impact, and each (Impact) member can say they were a part of making that happen."

As Impact's membership has grown over the years, so have Impact's grants. "Membership recruitment is everything. There are no Impact grants without members. Looking back at the early years, we were able to award one or two grants. While that is awesome, just a few short years later we are awarding five, all because of membership growth. The membership committee and the board do a great job with socials and events to help the community understand what Impact 100 is in a way that makes women want to be involved."

When asked to share something people may not know about her, Michelle remarked that she has a creative side that many people may not know about. "Although I have to be very analytical and left-brained in my job, I have a true right-brain side. I have an arts and crafts studio at my home where I make jewelry, do machine embroidery and monogram, and personalize items for friends and family, and for gift items."

Does she have any words of wisdom for Impact members as we get ready to launch the 2019 Membership Campaign? "Yes! Don't forget to renew **your** membership!"

IMPACT GRANTS – Creating Ripples of Hope & Opportunity



South Baldwin Literacy Council - Opening minds and changing lives

In 2017, the South Baldwin Literacy Council (SBLC) received a \$90,000 grant to build an addition that will house new classrooms to accommodate the growing need for their services. Construction will begin later this year. Here's an update on their program.

by Anne Irving

The South Baldwin Literacy Council (SBLC) was established in 1985 as a volunteer-based nonprofit organization located in Foley. The SBLC serves residents in South Baldwin County through a wide array of educational programming which includes adult and youth tutoring, as well as teaching job placement skills. Services are available for all ages, languages, and educational levels. The SBLC is staffed with an executive director, also serving as a youth services coordinator, an English-as-a-second-language coordinator, and an adult learning coordinator. The SBLC is also supported by a Board of Directors and the generosity of volunteers

In 2017, SBLC was awarded the grant for the Family category in the amount of \$90,000. This funding will provide for a building addition consisting of four separate 12X12 rooms to accommodate their growing

demand for one-on-one literacy tutoring. Last year, the SBLC served over 500 of our community members.

There are many personal successes for those who take advantage of these free services. One life that changed, beginning in January of this year, belongs to a 17-year-old young man named Clifford.

Clifford came to the SBLC in June of 2016 as a 17-year-old, unemployed student. Clifford's goals were to obtain his GED, to get his driver's license, and to be accepted into cosmetology school. The SBLC tutored him in all subjects for about a year. Clifford's studies were interrupted when he had to move to Texas to take care of a sick family member for a few months in the middle of his classes. Because of his dedication and the support of his tutors, he stayed in touch with the SBLC and obtained his GED in February.

Today Clifford is employed full-time and living in the Houston area.

Another recent graduate of their Adult Literacy and Adult Education program is Jamie. Jamie immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico without knowing any English. Jamie's goal was to learn English in order to pass his U.S. Citizenship test. Jamie proudly took his oath of citizenship in June! He has worked extremely hard to become a U.S. Citizen. He is a husband and father of twins and continues to further his education.

Lastly, a grateful parent posted on the SBLC's Facebook page: "A big thank you for the help of such gracious and giving individuals that volunteer in this program. It has made a huge impact on my child's life, just can't thank you enough!!! We love you guys!!!"



Meet Clifford, an SBLC success story! Clifford's goal was to obtain his GED and be accepted into cosmetology school. Now, thanks to SBLC, he has achieved both goals!

Have you purchased your raffle tickets yet?

Jean McKee, Impact 100 member and well-known local artist, has donated a beautiful 30 x 40 painting for Impact to raffle off. (Thank you, Jean, for your fabulous generosity!)

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. Tickets will be sold at each of our Just for Funs until the lucky winner's name is drawn at our Annual Meeting in November.

The painting has a value of \$900. Proceeds will be used to support Impact100's administrative expenses.



FALL SOCIAL!

This year's Fall Social at Sunset Pointe was a fabulous success: A beautiful setting, great friends, fun meeting each other's significant other, good food and good conversation. You really couldn't ask for a better evening. Hope you were able to join us, but, if not, plan on attending next year. Many thanks to Jerry Ann McCarron for organizing this and the other great Just For Funs we've had this year. Our final JFF will be October 10 at Green Gates Market, 801 North Section Street, in Fairhope. See you there!



2019 Board of Directors

(terms begin December 1, 2018)

OFFICERS

Ann Rumley, President
Suzanne Thornburg, VP/President-Elect
Elsa VanEysbergen, Treasurer
Nancy Wolfe, Membership Secretary
Barbara Levitt, Recording Secretary

CLASS OF 2019

Lucy Douty
Carol Gordon
Sheila Hale
Jan Pruitt
Suzanne Thornburg
Elsa VanEysbergen

CLASS OF 2020

Necie Borroni
Anne Irving
Nancy Lambe
Sandy Stepan
Judy Thompson
Alice Villadsen
Nancy Wolfe

CLASS OF 2021

Abby Hamilton
Barbara Levitt
Susan Lovelady
Jerry Ann McCarron
Ann Rumley
Lucy Smith

Be on the lookout!

Your Annual Meeting packet, including your invitation, ballot, and executive summaries of our ten grant finalists, will be in your mailbox the first part of October, so be on the lookout for it – and be sure to attend our Annual Meeting at the Daphne Civic Center on November 1.

