



PO Box 1903,
Fairhope, Alabama 36533

Impact 100 Baldwin County MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

OCTOBER 2018

Grantmaking Edition

Calendar

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
Association of Realtors
23280 County Road 65
Robertsdale

If you have not received
your Annual Meeting
packet, please let us
know immediately.

If you're voting
absentee, your ballot
must be postmarked on
OR before October 26!

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

By now, all of you have received your invitations to our Annual Meeting on November 1st. Enclosed in your packet were the executive summaries provided by the focus groups in Arts & Culture; Education; Environment, Recreation, and Preservation; Family; and Health & Wellness. These summaries are the culmination of months of diligence and hard work on the part of our focus groups and I once again thank the members that volunteer in this important part of our process.



Melanie Harris

Please take the time to read through these executive summaries and vote by absentee ballot if you are not able to attend the Annual Meeting. It is still a great idea to read through them even if you do plan to attend. With only five minutes to make their case, the finalists rely on these summaries to provide a more thorough look at their missions and their projects.

I would encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting if you are able. I cannot describe how exciting this night is, for our membership, for our finalists and, most of all, for the grant awardees! You will truly know what we are all about, what we have accomplished this year, and I hope this brings you as much pleasure as the experience brings to me.

So, please come celebrate with us and our awardees! Celebrate what your participation means to so many and receive the congratulations that you so richly deserve.

With Gratitude,

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE

President's Message	1
Women Making an Impact: Sandy Stepan	2
2018 Grant Finalists Announced	3
Creating Ripples of Hope: This Year's Grantmaking and Focus Groups	4
Focus Group Members	4
2018 Grant Applicants	5

Women Making an Impact

Sandy Stepan

An advocate for both the concept and power of women's collective giving, Sandy Stepan has been a member of Impact since 2011. She has served on the Membership Committee, various focus groups, and the board. Sandy is currently serving as Grant Co-Chair and will become the Grants Chair in December.

When Sandy Stepan moved to Fairhope several years ago and started reading about Impact 100, she probably didn't even consider that, one day, she would be on its board and chair the very committee whose activities had piqued her interest – our grants. "I read about Impact 100 and was very intrigued with the idea and what they were doing. So, I kinda started following them. But for two years, I was busy settling in. The timing wasn't right. But I kept following Impact's grants in the news."

A couple of years later, the timing was right. "When I read that Impact had a membership drive event coming up (it was the last membership drive event of the year), I went – and I joined. I thought, I'm going to do it for a year and see what happens."

"What happened" was she ended up joining the Health & Wellness focus group – and that was that. She was hooked. And she's been a member of

"Grants are the heart and soul of what we do."

Impact 100 ever since.

"I served on focus groups for a number of years and became sold on the idea. I am a big fan of the concept. I love the idea of women's collective giving – the whole process. I've always been very impressed with Impact, with the ethics of the organization."

Currently serving as grants co-chair, Sandy will become the grants chair on December 1. It's a role which will suit her well. "I've always been fascinated by the grants. You learn so much about the community doing that."

She loves the process itself, too. "It really is a very democratic process. You sit down with the group, go through the applications, do site visits, scrutinize the organizations, review the financials... You look at the needs and see what the agency is doing. All the while being mindful of the money that Impact members have donated as you try to make the best possible decisions. Then we bring forth our candidates and allow the whole organization to vote. As I said, it's a very democratic process."

Sandy also appreciates the different perspectives and experiences focus group members bring to the table and the way those different perspectives enrich and, sometimes, reframe the discussions. For instance, she remembered, ARC had applied for a grant every year for six years. On the face of it, they simply wanted new vehicles. But after doing the site visit and seeing first-hand **why** the vehicles were needed, a focus group member helped reframe the discussion by talking about just what those vehicles would allow ARC to do – the impact they would have on people's lives if the vehicles were available to ARC's clientele. Hearing that

perspective helped reframe the focus group's discussion.

While Sandy's primary interest may be grantmaking, she has also served on Impact's Membership Committee because of the close correlation between the two. "The grants are the heart and soul of what we do. (But) we have to have the membership to make the grants. Impact is a purely member-driven organization. We have to have the numbers. The more members we have, the more money we have, the more grants we can give. The concept is very simple – you have the money, you give the grant."

Sandy and her husband, Craig, live in Fairhope. Their three sons live in the area, too. Originally from Minnesota, Sandy's lived in Alabama for 25 years.

Formerly a critical care nurse and nursing administrator, Sandy loves to needlepoint. "I'm a huge needlepointer. But it's not your grandmother's kind of needlepointing – I do very decorative needlepointing. That's my kind of therapy. It's my hobby."

She also recently checked off something that had been on her bucket list for over 20 years. She took the Master Gardener course last winter and became a Master Gardener. She's having a lot of fun doing community outreach activities with them and with P.E.O., an all-woman's philanthropic education organization.

Sandy looks forward to our Annual Meeting on November 1, to awarding our 2018 grants and seeing the difference those grants will make. "We're obviously filling a need in the community. We are seeing the results of our work right here in our backyard. It's a very fulfilling way to help people when you can SEE the results."

"Our defining moment is when we award the grants. That's got to be my favorite part. It's very touching."



Sandy Stepan and some of her decorative needlepoint

IMPACT GRANTS – Creating Ripples of Hope & Opportunity



2018 Grant Finalists Announced!

This year's ten grant finalists were selected from the 43 applications focus groups reviewed over the summer. Barbara Levitt, Grants Chair, commented that this year's applications were extremely competitive. "The quality of this year's applications was exceptional and focus group members had to make many tough decisions. We received so many outstanding applications, it was challenging to narrow the field down to the ten finalists. It was inspiring to see how hard each and every one of the organizations we visited is working to make Baldwin County an even better place to live." The grant finalists we will vote on at the Annual Meeting are:

ARTS & CULTURE

Baldwin County Youth Orchestra

PROJECT: *Baldwin County Strings Academy*

Mobile Symphony, Inc.

PROJECT: *Mobile Symphony's Baldwin Summer Concerts*

EDUCATION

Fairhope Point Clear Rotary Youth Programs, Inc.

PROJECT: *Creating a Healthier Academic Environment*

Mobile Baykeeper

PROJECT: *Strategic Watershed Awareness Monitoring Program (SWAMP)*

ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

Southwest Panhandle Search and Rescue K9 Emotional First Aid Team, Inc.

PROJECT: *K9 Water-Ready Rescue and Recovery*

The Miracle League of Coastal Alabama, Inc.

PROJECT: *Miracle League complex in Baldwin County*

FAMILY

Light of the City - VOASE

PROJECT: *Light the Way Family Initiative*

Mary's Shelter

PROJECT: *Genesis Daycare and Advancement Center*

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Big Fish Ministries

PROJECT: *Facilitating Change, Championing Freedom, Fostering Hope.*

Stapleton Volunteer Fire Department

PROJECT: *Emergency Disaster Response Building Project*



Representatives of the ten organizations chosen as our 2018 grant finalists recently met to learn about "next steps" and their presentations at the Impact 100 Annual Meeting on November 1.

Come Vote!

Impact 100 Baldwin County Annual Meeting

November 1 – 4:30

Daphne Civic Center, Daphne

RSVP here: [2018 Annual Meeting RSVP](#)

Five of these outstanding organizations will receive \$91,000 grants, bringing the total amount of grants Impact 100 Baldwin County has awarded to over \$3 million. We hope you plan to attend the Annual Meeting to hear the finalists talk about why their programs are so important to our community, but if you can't, be sure to vote by mailing in your absentee ballot **no later than October 26**.

Creating Additional Ripples of Hope: This Year's Grantmaking and Focus Groups...

This year, Impact received 43 grant applications from worthy programs all over the county. Narrowing down the finalists was extremely difficult, according to Barbara Levitt, Grants Chair (*see story on previous page*). Barbara also pointed out a few changes, designed with members in mind, that the Grant Committee made this year: Changes in locations (including adding a site in Spanish Fort for the convenience of North Baldwin members) and changes in times, offering both morning and evening meetings. As a result, a record number of members (82) participated this year, coincidentally totaling the exact number of women who founded Impact 11 years ago! (How's that for a fun factoid?)

It was a record year for first-year members participating on a focus group, too. One of them, Lenise Ligon, was asked about her experience. "I loved it! This was my first time on a focus group – my first time reviewing grants of any type. It was definitely an enlightening experience. The amount of passion and care that everyone showed. We all knew what was at stake. Everyone had a voice and we all worked toward making the community better." She laughed and continued, "I was a little surprised by the time commitment, and I didn't expect the homework, but at the end of the day, I really appreciated the thoroughness of the process. There definitely was no 'mailing it in' – the discussions were great." Lenise also remarked that she learned a lot about our community. When asked what she learned, Lenise said, "All of it! There were at least three organizations I didn't even know existed and it's my job (as co-anchor for Fox 10 News) to know. Even the organizations I was familiar with, I didn't realize all they did."

Another new focus group member, Frieda Ward, had a similar experience. "I learned about the many nonprofit groups that are working to improve some aspect of their community members' lives. It was heart-warming to see so many dedicated, hard-working people who want to make a positive impact on the lives of those in our area. For me, the most amazing part of being a focus group member was the interaction that occurs during a site visit. When meeting with the members of the group who submitted a grant application, I was amazed at their dedication to their organization and their enthusiasm to grow and build their programs. They have so much desire to move forward; they just need some money to get them started on their journey."

Frieda also enjoyed meeting the other women on her focus group, commenting, "I had the opportunity to get to know and work with fifteen women I did not know previously."

When asked if they would do it again, both women were enthusiastic yesses. Lenise remarked, "I was sad when it was over. It was a great experience and I'll definitely do it again." Frieda agreed, explaining, "Yes, it does take some time to come to meetings, go on site visits and prepare reports. But the experience is well worth the time. I would encourage everyone to participate."

2018 FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

THANK YOU to all the women who spent their summer reviewing grants, making site visits, and choosing this year's grant finalists. Your dedication and hard work have once again provided us with the critical information we need to make informed (though often very difficult!) decisions at the Annual Meeting. We also want to acknowledge Grant Chair and Co-Chair, Barbara Levitt and Sandy Stepan, for all the time and effort they made to ensure a seamless grants process. Their leadership provided the direction, the instruction, and the problem-solving that allowed focus groups to function efficiently and effectively. We are so appreciative of **all** of you – of your hard work and your thoughtful deliberations. **Thank you, everyone!**

ARTS & CULTURE

Alice Villadsen, Chair
Veronica Herndon, Co-Chair
 Pattie Adcock
 Katherine Allen
 Sheila Dodson
 Lucy Douty
 Kit Hamilton
 Sue Heatter
 Crystal Hill
 Monica Leonard
 Anne McCormick
 Rhonda Morris
 Shirlee Poulos
 Lucy Smith
 Sandra Stewart
 Lynn Wilson

EDUCATION

Nancye Wolfe, Chair
Michelle Orr, Co-Chair
Elsa VanEysberger, Co-Chair
 Necie Borroni
 Barbara Brown
 Carol Eberlein
 Phyllis French
 Yael Girard
 Lolly Holk
 Lexie Jones
 Hope Knobler
 Suzanne Thornburg
 Jane Tucker
 Bryant Whelan
 Loula Wilson

ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Judy Thompson, Chair
Jerry Lynn Graham, Co-Chair
 Allison Ashurst
 Sue Cade
 Utopia Cassidy
 Donna Dorriety
 Kelly Durden
 Pam Ewell
 Mo Fitzgerald
 Kristin Koppen
 Melissa McCarty
 Gillie McLean
 Judy Motlow
 Amy Norris
 Margaret Pace
 Dee Ann Reed
 Janie Stone
 Susan Storey
 Frieda Ward
 Chan West
 Vickie Weyand
 Casey Williams

FAMILY

Sheila Hale, Chair
Carol Gordon, Co-Chair
 Linda Buck
 Christy Crews
 Carla Givens
 Abby Hamilton
 Betty Jackson
 Blanche Kennelly
 Micki Kohn
 Christi Mossburg
 Carson Nicholson
 Lydia Pettijohn
 Rachel Romash
 Anita Sharpless
 Lucia Smith
 Tammy Smith
 Marcie Stanley
 Debra Townson

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Nancy Lambe, Chair
Linda Glaze, Co-Chair
Anne Irving, Co-Chair
 Sally Boom
 Diana Brewer
 Katchie Cane
 Lynn Chilton
 Elizabeth Cole
 Kim Gibson
 Karen Goldy
 Bonnie Gulsby
 Lenise Ligon
 Ellen Moore
 Margaret Neely
 Claudine Nichols
 Brenda Parnell
 Betty Riley
 Rosalie Stromm
 Kathy Sudduth
 Dora Willis



Impact grants create ripples of hope!

2018 Grant Applicants

This year, we received 43 grant applications amounting to almost \$4 million in grant requests. At the Annual Meeting, we will award \$455,000 or about 11% of the requests we received. The agencies below represent a wide variety of worthy programs located all over Baldwin County. If you are interested in learning more about any of them or their projects, please visit their websites or Facebook pages.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Baldwin County Youth Orchestra, *Baldwin County Strings Academy**

Mobile Symphony, Inc., *Mobile Symphony's Baldwin Summer Concerts**

The Friends of the Old Methodist Church Museum of Daphne, Inc., *The Pride of Baldwin County*

EDUCATION

Explore Center, Inc., dba Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, *Science to Go -- Baldwin County*

Fairhope Point Clear Rotary Youth Programs, Inc., *Creating a Healthier Academic Environment**

Goodwill Industries-Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast, Inc., *Bridging the Digital Divide*

Mobile Baykeeper, *Strategic Watershed Awareness Monitoring Program (SWAMP)**

Saint Michael Catholic High School, *Side by Side*

The Zoo Foundation, Inc., *ZooMobile*

University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute, *Culinary Education: Food Empowerment to Improve Quality of Life through Novel Culinary and Nutrition Education*

ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Alabama Lighthouse Association, *The restoration and reestablishment of Mobile Point Lighthouse on its original base at Fort Morgan*

Daphne/Spanish Fort Kiwanis Foundation, *Project Sandbox: An Inclusive Playground*

Disaster & Victim Services International, *Environmental and Search & Rescue Support*

Emmanuel's Place, Inc., *To Maximize the Difference in our Children's Lives*

Gulf Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council, *Baldwin County Watershed Management Coordinator*

Lillian Recreational Park, *Expansion & Enhancement of Lillian Recreational Park – Phase 1: A Park for All Ages – The Cross-Generational Power of Play*

North Baldwin Chamber Foundation, *Restore the Depot*

South Alabama Antique Tractor and Engine Club, *Baldwin County Agricultural Expo Center*

Southwest Panhandle Search and Rescue K9 Emotional First Aid Team, Inc., *K9 Water-Ready Rescue and Recovery**

The Miracle League of Coastal Alabama, Inc., *The Miracle League of Coastal Alabama, Inc.**

* indicates 2018 grant finalist

The Nature Conservancy in Alabama, *Prescribed Burns Prevent Wildfires (Purchase Wildland Fire Truck)*

Weeks Bay Foundation, Inc., *Rio Vista Restoration and Outreach Project*

FAMILY

African Universal Church, *Road to Recovery*

American Red Cross of Alabama, *Delivering Help and Hope*

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama, Inc., *Transforming Lives, Transforming Futures*

Community Action Agency of South Alabama, Inc., *Workforce Housing Opportunity Center*

Family Counseling Center of Mobile, Inc. (dba Lifelines Counseling Services), *Help Me Grow*

Legal Services Alabama, Inc., *Baldwin County Veterans Help (BCVH) Project*

Light of the City – VOASE, *Light the Way Family Initiative**

Mary's Shelter, *Genesis Daycare and Advancement Center**

Prodissee Pantry, Inc., *It's About Hunger*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Thrift Shop, *Building to Support Outreach and Giving*

The John McClure Snook Youth Club of Foley, *Creating Opportunities Across the Generations at the Foley Community Learning Center*

The Prince of Peace Ministries International Inc., *The Renaissance Community Center: The Genesis Project*

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Alabama Kidney Foundation, *Life Saving Dental Program*

Baldwin County Humane Society, *Pawstive Outreach - Bringing People and Pets Together*

Big Fish Ministries, *Facilitating Change, Championing Freedom, Fostering Hope**

Camp Rap-A-Hope Foundation, Inc., *Camp Week 2019*

Habitat for Humanity of Baldwin County, *Financial Foundations*

Hope Haven, *Shelter Renovation*

Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation, Inc., *Increasing Youth Lifelines*

Pregnancy and Family Services, DBA Women's Health Center, *Touching Hearts and Offering Hope*

Stapleton Volunteer Fire Department, *Emergency Disaster Response Building Project**

