

Luminaries

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Martin Co., St. Lucie Co., Indian River Co.



MARTIN COUNTY

Impact100 Martin: Impacting the community

Jackie Holfelder

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MARTIN COUNTY — At its annual Grant Awards Celebration on April 8, Impact100 Martin awarded \$100,000 Impact Grants to House of Hope and SafeSpace. Since its founding in 2017, the organization's investment in Martin County totals \$694,000.

The goal of the women's giving group is to attain membership of at least 306 during the next 12 months, meaning it will have granted a total of \$1 million in just five years for initiatives that create positive, lasting change in our community. Under the Impact100 model, membership drives philanthropy. Each member contributes \$1,000 and for every 100 women members, a \$100,000 Impact Grant is awarded. Every member has an equal vote in choosing which nonprofits receive funding.

Impact100 Martin Membership Committee co-chair Ann Barwig says, "As an individual, it's challenging to make a meaningful impact in our community, but as a group we have the ability to contribute in ways we never thought possible!" Past Impact Grant winners were Project LIFT in 2018 and Education Foundation of Martin County in 2019.

"Education platforms like the Project LIFT Pathway Academy of Innovation didn't exist here until Impact100 Martin



Pictured are Maureen Cotter, left, and Ann Barwig, membership co-chairs of Impact100 Martin. LIZ MCKINLEY

On the cover

Members of Impact100 Martin's Executive Committee present \$100,000 Impact Grants to House of Hope and SafeSpace. Pictured, from left, are Denise Belizar; Ann Barwig; Maureen Cotter; Rob Ranieri, House of Hope CEO; Dr. Teresa Albizu, SafeSpace CEO; Genevieve George; Sheila Leach; Arati Hammond; and Rita May Wright. Photo by Liz McKinley

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Luminaries

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Impact100

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recognized the need to think outside the box," said Bob Zaccheo, founder and executive director of Project LIFT.

"That allowed us to serve more than 50 former dropouts annually in obtaining high school diplomas, achieving mental health stability and learning job skills. The result is productive citizens who are giving back to Martin County instead of draining resources."

"We're so grateful to Impact100 for the opportunity to expand the EFMC PLAYS (Purposeful Language Acquisition Yields Success) pilot program to all kindergarten students in the Martin County School District," said Education Foundation of Martin County Executive Director Lisa Rhodes. "Within just three months of program implementation, students at J.D. Parker went from scoring 18% proficient in reading to 63% proficient. We can't wait to see the heights youngsters will reach when we can bring the program back to full implementation."

Not surprisingly, 2020 threw a curveball in Impact100 Martin's usual structure. The organization nimbly regrouped,

participating in a Covid Consortium comprised of various local entities that awarded 14 nonprofits with \$224,000 for at-risk projects. In 2021, the executive board made the decision to return to the Global Impact100 model and award \$100,000 each to two recipients.

House of Hope received a grant for Feeding Families for Success, which will improve efficiency, safety and capacity to grow, prepare and distribute high quality, fresh foods and meals to nearly 7,000 clients and 24 food partners at no cost to those served. It will create a more productive workspace and automate tasks at the Nutrition Center. The grant that SafeSpace received will allow it to renovate a garage space located on its property that will be used for an outreach center that will expand its services and increase the number of participants served.

Impact100 Martin empowers women to create positive, lasting change in Martin County through collective giving. The philanthropic organization maintains a field of interest fund with The Community Foundation Martin-St. Lucie, and is a chapter of the global Impact100 Council.

To learn more or become a member, visit impact100martin.org, email impact100martinfl@gmail.com or call 772-288-3795.

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