

WOMEN TOGETHER, CHANGING LIVES, MAKING AN IMPACT

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PHOTO/IMAGES PROVIDED

Helen Kellar, American author, political activist, and lecturer, once said "Alone we can do so little; Together, we can do so much."

Impact 100 Cincinnati, "Women Together, Changing Lives", brings that saying to life!

Now in its' 14th year, Impact 100, a phenomenal, women's philanthropic movement, has multiplied the effects of their giving and is making a significant impact throughout Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Since 2002, Impact 100, a membership of philanthropic women in Cincinnati, have pooled their money and invested over \$3.25M in grants to charitable initiatives to support transformational changes across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

"Our members give generously of their financial resources to help make the Greater Cincinnati area a better place to live, work and play." shares Becki Meyer, Impact 100 Cincinnati, Marketing/PR Chair. "Impact 100 is an amazing organization of passionate, committed, hard-working, FUN women!"

Founded in 2001 on the idea of a giving circle of women promoting philanthropy by collectively funding non-profits that provide sustainable solutions in the areas of **Culture, Education, Environment, Family, and Health & Wellness**, Impact 100 Cincinnati has awarded grants to over 25 agencies since 2002.

"The cost of my membership would only make a small impact by itself." Donna, an Impact 100 mem-



Impact 100 grant recipients for 2015 receiving their grants at the Impact 100 Annual Awards Celebration held 9/15/15.

Left to right: Beth Race, SELF; Kurt Reiber, Freestore Foodbank; Clare Blankemeyer & Sharon Mitchell, Impact 100; Brian Leshner, Activities Beyond the Classroom; and Terry McManus, May We Help.

(Photo courtesy of Amy Elisabeth Photography LLC)

ber, is quoted on the Impact 100 website. "Combined with others it can make a life changing event for an organization and those it serves."

Ranging in age from 20's to 80's, have diverse career choices (employed full time, part-time, retired, working at home), and coming from over 30 zip codes in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, each Impact 100 Cincinnati member contributes \$1,000 towards Impact 100 philanthropic efforts. With 100% of each member's contribution given away in annual grants, at least \$100,000 is awarded to a worthy non-profit within the Greater Cincinnati/Northern KY ten county region.

"Best women's philanthropy group in town!" Mary Jo, an Impact 100 member, is quoted on the Impact 100 website on why she gives. "You not only help others in need, but you feel so good inside knowing that your treasure is going to the best place possible!"

And, oh what a good feeling! Impressive too!

This year was record setting. In 2015, which marked the fourteenth year of the giving circle; the first time ever that Impact 100 awarded FOUR grants in a single year; and the most money given in a single year, 100 nonprofit, charitable or-

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WOMEN TOGETHER, CHANGING LIVES, MAKING AN IMPACT (CONT'D)



Freestore Foodbank, Activities Beyond the Classroom, May We Help, and Supports to Encourage Low Income Families (SELF) were the recipients of Impact 100 Cincinnati grants for 2015. Each organization awarded \$101,000 to enable a “dream” project.

ganizations submitted letters of intent proposals. After careful review, Impact 100 invited 35 agencies to submit full proposals. A committee researched, vetted, and narrowed the field to seven, passionate finalists’ projects for members to vote upon at the Impact 100 Annual Awards Celebration.

At a packed reception of 400 members and guests at the Manor House, Impact 100 members voted and awarded \$404,000 to four agencies – each receiving \$101,000 -to bring their “dream” projects to life and further their transformational, sustainable community efforts.

“Each project had the promise of making a difference in our community through the extension of services provided.” shared Meyer. “Choosing only four of the seven was a difficult chore for our membership.”

“Freestore Foodbank would like to thank the members of Impact 100 for their confidence and support of our Healthy Harvest Mobile Market!” said Kurt Reiber, President and CEO of the Freestore Foodbank, one of the four organizations

receiving a 2015 grant and the first organization to receive two grants in the history of Impact 100.

The Freestore Foodbank, which provides food and services, creates stability, and furthers self-reliance for people in crisis, will use the Impact 100 grant to acquire a truck and trailer to launch the Healthy Harvest Mobile Market, a new initiative of the Freestore Foodbank to make fresh fruits and vegetables available to families located across Greater Cincinnati dealing with food insecurity. The Freestore Foodbank plans to market fresh produce to ten Food Desert areas with the hope of expanding in future years.

Activities Beyond the Classroom, dedicated to providing support for extracurricular activities in Cincinnati Public Schools, was awarded an Impact 100 grant for their Hughes High School Recreation Center project which will renovate the empty Krueck Center pool space at Hughes High School into a vibrant athletic facility for the school’s extracurricular programs and also be used as a community recreation center. The new space will serve all athletic teams at Hughes, create a hands-on sensory learning

classroom for special education students during the day, and provide additional outreach space for local elementary schools and a community recreation space during off-peak hours.

“The students at Hughes are so overjoyed for this recent accomplishment and proud to see their school represented on this level.” shared Brian Leshner, Executive Director, Activities Beyond the Classroom. “... we are truly honored to receive this award.”

A grant was also awarded to May We Help, a group of engineers who volunteer to create custom solutions and adaptations for people with disabilities at no charge. The funds will be used to purchase machinery for a newly renovated workshop to facilitate the design and manufacture of assistive devices for those living with special needs, enabling the creation of over 100 unique devices per year.

Supports to Encourage Low Income Families (SELF), aims to enhance the quality of life for Butler County (OH) residents by

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WOMEN TOGETHER, CHANGING LIVES, MAKING AN IMPACT (CONT'D)



Impact 100 will begin accepting Letter of Intent proposals from not-for-profit organizations serving a ten county region beginning October 26, 2015 for grant consideration for 2016.

Focus areas for grants: Culture, Education, Environment, Family, and Health & Wellness.

(Image | Impact 100)

dedicated to changing our city for the better, and could open up doors for your project in the future.”

To learn more about Impact 100 including how you can join in giving or apply for a grant, visit their website www.impact100.org.

Want to join in this philanthropic movement making a substantial impact in the community but don't live in the Greater Cincinnati area? Impact 100, founded in Cincinnati, has grown to nineteen other communities in the U.S., and three groups in Australia. Click [here](#) to see other communities where Impact 100 is making an impact.

impacting the causes of poverty and empowering self-sufficiency, and will use the grant they were awarded to double the capacity of the Build-Up Academy program which trains, educates and mentors under/unemployed young adults so they can gain employment in the construction field.

Additionally, the three Finalists which did not receive a grant - Green Umbrella, The Point/ARC of Northern Kentucky, and the Clifton Cultural Arts Center - will be awarded funds from the Impact 100 Giving Tree program to help achieve their missions.

Now that this year's Impact 100 Cincinnati cycle of giving has ended, another is beginning.

“So the strong tradition of awarding transformational grants can continue”, Impact 100 members are currently recruiting members for 2016. The more members, the more grant funds awarded.

“We are looking to GROW, so we can “Spread the Joy” by funding

FIVE grants for 2016!” shared Becki Meyer.

The increase in membership would mean half million dollars in grants to be awarded in 2016! All membership donations must be received by December 31, 2015 in order to be included in the 2016 Grant Fund.

Impact 100 Cincinnati is also beginning a new grant cycle with not-for-profit partners which kicks off in October with two Applicant Information Workshops designed to inform not-for-profit partners on how the Impact 100 grant application process works so they are effectively prepared to submit a Letter of Intent. The Letter of Intent online form will be available for submission at www.impact100.org starting Monday 10/26/15. All agencies will be notified of their status by February 22, 2016.

“We encourage other organizations to put their great ideas out there for consideration. Even if your project is not chosen,” shared Brian Leshner, “it's still an amazing opportunity to present your idea to a group of women

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