

IMPACT 100

To date, Impact 100 Owensboro has contributed 2.37 million dollars to our local non-profit agencies.

By Shannon Erickson

In September 2001, Wendy Steele from Cincinnati Ohio had the idea of forming a women's giving circle. Her notion, brilliant in its simplicity, was based on collective giving. Pooled charitable contributions from women in the greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area could be combined and then invested in worthy non-profit organizations in the community. That idea grew and eventually gave birth to Impact 100.

In Owensboro, Marianne Smith Edge learned of Impact 100 through a sorority sister and was intrigued. While the concept of women giving circles was new, it was slowly spreading in other parts of the country. At a Leadership Kentucky conference, Marianne and Martha Clark discussed the possibility of an Impact 100 Owensboro organization. Together they recruited 14 additional women. Those women, in turn, enlisted others and as word spread the idea was embraced with enthusiasm and generosity.

In 2006, Owensboro Impact 100 was officially launched, and the inaugural membership included 150 women. Interest continued to swell and Impact 100 Owensboro now counts over 200 participants.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

A woman makes a contribution of \$1,000 for a full membership or a contribution of \$500 for a half membership.

A woman may join at any time of the year, but the membership drive takes place from January through March. The number of women joining during the membership drive determines the amount of money to be given for that particular year.

In March, Impact 100 oversees a grant writing workshop for non-profit agencies in the greater Owensboro area. Those agencies interested in applying for the grants are strongly encouraged to attend. Participants learn guidelines for grant qualifications as well as effective grant writing skills.

Qualified applicants must serve across one or more of five focus areas: culture, education, environment and recreation, family, and health and wellness.

On June 1st, grant applications are due and the review process begins. At the end of the review process, finalists are selected. Members of Impact 100 hear a presentation from each finalist at the annual October meeting. The members cast their ballots and the two applicants receiving the most votes are awarded individual grants of \$100,000.

After the two \$100,000 grants are awarded, residual funds in the pool are divided equally between the next three

finalists.

It should be noted that 100 percent of membership dollars go directly into the grant fund.

Impact 100% Owensboro seeks to empower the women of our area. Historically, women have not been the main community philanthropists. As women become more independent in their own right, many look for ways to share their gifts of time, talent, and financial gain. They find, through their involvement, that there is real power in collective giving. The joint donations of Daviess County women are improving lives and making a difference. To date, Impact 100 Owensboro has contributed \$2.37 million to our local non-profit agencies.

TWO EXAMPLES

The 2016 grant recipients were the Help Office and The Owensboro Daviess County Regional Dental Clinic. The Community Dental Clinic's current location is set for demolition, so the Impact 100 endowment will assist them in their move to a new building. It will also allow them to add two additional treatment chairs to more efficiently serve our community's at-risk population.

Before being awarded the 2016 grant, the Help office had no means of picking up donations. They relied on donors bringing food and other goods directly to the office. With the Impact 100 endowment, the Help Office purchased a van as well as made much-needed repairs to the 80-year-old building. They've been able to purchase new refrigeration units and remodel the pantry as well.

Woody Woodward, the Help Office director, says it best. "The Help Office is extremely grateful to the leadership and members of Impact 100 Owensboro for granting our request and making it possible for us to serve the least fortunate of our community in meaningful and compassionate ways."

These grants are transformational. They provide very real solutions to the needs of the organizations and the people they serve. Women participating in Impact 100 are transformed as well. They see first hand the inner workings of non-profit agencies through our community. Lives on both sides are forever changed by these ordinary women, making an extraordinary difference.

For more information on Impact 100 Owensboro visit: www.IMPACT100owensboro.org.

THERE ARE THREE LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION:

- A member may choose to donate money only.
- A member may choose to come to the meetings and vote on the annual grant recipients.
- A member may become actively involved in all aspects of the program, participating in focus groups, site visits, and grant applications.

2016 FINALISTS:

- Community Dental Clinic: Healthy Smiles Improvement, Outreach, and Expansion Project
- Foundation for Daviess County Public Schools
- Exploration Station
- Help Office of Owensboro, Inc.
- Help Office of Owensboro, Inc. Renovation/Expansion of Services
- OCTC Foundation, Inc.
- Impacting Lives through the Humanities
- Owensboro Family YMCA Facility Improvements Project

