

Luminaries

June 22, 2020

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

Rapid response

Impact 100 Martin redirects funding



IMPACT¹⁰⁰
MARTIN
EMPOWERING FEMALE PHILANTHROPY

MARTIN COUNTY

COVER STORY

Impact 100 Martin commits \$224K to COVID-19 relief

Denise Belizar

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Three months ago, the women of Impact 100 Martin were completing preparations for their annual grant awards celebration. The members of the philanthropic organization were looking forward to

awarding two \$100,000 impact grants – and an additional \$24,000 in-funds – to area non-profit organizations for projects that would have a positive, lasting impact on our community.

Then came the pandemic.

The needs and priorities of Martin County's population

– and the nonprofits serving its residents – changed overnight.

The most critical needs now were for those organizations on the front lines that were helping those hardest hit by the pandemic's fallout.

Impact 100 Martin mobilized quickly. Traditionally, each of the collective giving group's 224 members (who individually contributed \$1,000 toward the grant funding) would have an equal vote to select the impact grant recipients. Instead, the



Cindi Slagter, Denise Belizar, Tiann Berhoff, Nancy Wong, Arati Hammond, Linda Weiksnar, Elaine Matts, Genevieve George and Rita May Wright. (Photo taken before recommendation of social distancing.) CONTRIBUTED BY IMPACT 100 MARTIN

members held a virtual vote and elected overwhelmingly to direct their entire \$224,000 to COVID-19 relief and recovery.

To ensure the best and most efficient way to get funding to the areas of greatest need, Impact 100 Martin joined the COVID-19 Funders' Consortium of Martin County, led by The Community Foundation Martin-St. Lucie. Each week, the consortium's 11-member funding organizations come together via teleconference to review nonprofits' applications for assistance. Each organization selects which applications they wish to fund, and often do so collaboratively.

As of the end of May, Impact 100 Martin has awarded grants to:

■ ARC of Martin County, for laptops allowing ARC to supervise their locations remotely and to cover services for 16 new clients ARC gained due to other agencies closing.

■ Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, for technology, materials and supplies for a virtual academic enrichment program due to schools and clubs closing.

■ Council on Aging of Martin County, for a walk-in freezer to meet increased demand for Meals on Wheels.

■ House of Hope, to assist with operating expenses for their production farm and nutrition center, which is playing an important role in meeting increased food demand.

■ Light of the World Charities, to underwrite 60 days of operating expenses as they provide emergency dental services as well as a range of remote support for children without insurance.

■ Tykes & Teens, for their Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program that provides counseling to pre-teens and adolescents struggling with alcohol, drugs or other dangerous behaviors. YES had a deficit due to a COVID-19-related reduction in revenue.

■ Volunteers in Medicine, to provide prescription refills for patients working for industries that have been hit hard by the pandemic.

Impact 100 Martin also joined with several consortium members to fund a bulk purchase of supplies such as masks, disinfectants, sanitizers and more for 12 nonprofits needing this assistance.

While Impact 100 Martin's COVID-19 grant funding is still underway, plans for the group's 2020-2021 season are already ramping up.

A kickoff event is set for the evening of Nov. 5 at Willoughby Golf Club. Anyone interested in learning about or becoming a member of the organization is welcome to attend and more information is available on the Impact 100 Martin web site.

To learn more, become a member or renew your membership, visit www.impact100martin.org, e-mail impact100martinfl@gmail.com or call 772-288-3795.

On the cover

The members of Impact 100 Martin at last year's Grant Awards Celebration. Photo contributed by Impact 100 Martin.

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