



WISDOM FROM WENDY

October 2020

A Time of Celebration

As the leading organization empowering women to transform communities through generosity, we at Impact100 have much to celebrate. Beginning with a Cincinnati community, Impact100 has grown through grassroots word of mouth with leaders rising up in more than 60 communities around the globe. Since its inception, Impact100 chapters have given away nearly \$80 million to worthy nonprofits and more than 15,000 women have joined the movement.

The Impact100 Model's powerful process is more attractive than ever to women seeking to step into a leadership role to help solve humanity's most pressing problems. The 100% volunteer-led model is grounded in the belief of an efficient, transformational, and sustainable collaborative giving process.

For almost 20 years, Impact100 has thrived despite the odds stacked against this all-volunteer movement. Part of the success must be credited to the tenacity of the women leading Impact100 chapters and certainly part of the credit rests in the power of the Impact100 Model itself. The other critical success factor is the work of the Impact100 Global Council. The Global Council serves as the backbone to the Impact100 movement, providing much-needed infrastructure, systems, resources, tools, leadership development, and coaching to Impact100 chapters everywhere. Today, the movement continues to accelerate with powerful momentum.

Although I have shared the origin story of Impact100 often, I realize many of you may not know how Impact100 Global Advisory Council got its start.

Back in 2005, I hosted the first Impact100 Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The idea was to bring together the three existing Impact100 chapters (Cincinnati, Pensacola, and Austin) to share best practices and build community as we nurtured and grew this fledgling movement. I chose Chicago as our Conference location because of its central location, easy flight access, and wide array of hotel & conference space.

The inaugural Impact100 Conference was a tremendous success. It was at this initial gathering that we determined a cadence and operating rhythm for future conferences. The idea was to meet regularly with different Impact100 chapters hosting Conference events in succession. While in Chicago, Impact Austin volunteered to host the next event. Conferences continued this way for many years, with the next chapter self-identifying as the new host during the closing hours of the current conference. Each successive conference was bigger and more robust than the one before, as the Impact100 movement continued to thrive.

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Conferences were a significant undertaking. It was becoming too much to successfully execute a significant conference while running an Impact100 chapter at the same time. In 2014, I reimagined the Impact100 conference concept with the understanding that the movement had outgrown our grassroots approach to convening. After discussions with Impact100 leaders from around the footprint, we targeted October of 2016 as the first Impact100 Global Conference hosted by all five of the Impact100 Chapters in Florida. I was to co-host and in 2015, we filed the necessary paperwork to begin offering conferences and other resources to Impact100 chapters through Impact100 Global Advisory Council.

The nonprofit status and website served to both elevate the movement and were a formalization of what I had been doing on my own and through my work at Generosity Matters, to support leaders and chapters of Impact100 wherever they were. My commitment to this movement began in the summer of 2001 and continues today.

Impact100 chapters and leaders need additional support as the movement grows and communities face increasing need. At a time of unprecedented problems facing humanity, we need more philanthropy and philanthropists to help solve them. The time has come to scale and sustain the Impact100 Model by systematically supporting and developing existing Impact100 Chapters while expanding to new locations; equipping new legions of female social entrepreneurs who will identify and invest in local solutions in their communities. Impact100 Global Council is now uniquely positioned to unify women and amplify change with a bold vision to reach \$1 billion of philanthropic Impact by 2035.

I invited the very first group of Impact100 leaders to join me for dinner on October 25, 2001. On that day, every woman at the table committed to establish the Founding Board and launch Impact100 in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Today, I invite each of you to join the work of Impact100 Global Council by establishing a recurring gift to support the Impact100 movement.**

Multiplier Effect:

With thanks to a very generous donor, **when you give to Impact100 Global through year end, your gift (of up to \$50,000) will be TRIPLED.**

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Together, we can make a tremendous Impact.

Gratefully,
Wendy