

A Little Wisdom from Wendy

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She spoke of how history would judge the nation's response saying, "*everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to the challenge.*" She concluded her remarks with a strong message of hope, "We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return." I could not agree more. *Better days will return and Impact100 leaders will be able to take pride on how we responded to the challenge.*

As I speak with Impact100 leaders from around the footprint, I am inspired by the thoughtful consideration, consensus building, and fact-finding exploration as we navigate through these uncharted waters toward the "right" next step. We are leaning in to learning new skills and reimagining our process to allow for social distancing and safety alongside compassion and good stewardship.

We began gathering weekly with Impact100 leaders from across the globe via Zoom, and the popularity of these Chapter Chats has been tremendous. In these unscripted conversations, we cover all aspects of the Impact100 Model and how the pandemic has affected our work and connection to our members and communities. Our findings and conversation notes are echoed on our website through the Community Forum. We share solutions, technologies, and tips with each other as we work together to deliver the power of Impact100 in new ways.

We have never been tested like this before, yet we have so much to be proud of. Some Impact100 chapters have moved their support to immediate Covid19 response, working with various consortiums and partnerships within their communities. Many Impact100 Chapters have continued their commitment to funding the five focus areas through the Impact100 \$100,000 grants. There certainly has been no rule book, yet each of us have listened, given thoughtful consideration, and responded to the unique needs of our communities.

Within the uncertainties of our present circumstances, there are some things we can be sure of: the needs of our neighbors served by the non-profit community will only continue to grow. The drive toward new innovation will need to accelerate. Impact100

will need to be prepared to continue to play a pivotal role in funding transformational grants to worthy nonprofits. I am confident that Impact100, and each of you, will be critical in illuminating a path forward.

Thanks to all of you, Impact100 has played a unique funding role in our communities for almost 20 years. Although needed adjustments have been made during this grant cycle, it is vital that we resume the transformational funding that has been the hallmark of our organization as quickly as we can. In most communities, we represent a rare opportunity for such significant funding. At Impact100, we know that the collaboration and empowerment of diverse women who give together creates transformational impact that is sustained and celebrated.

We increase the pie of philanthropic giving as we attract women to participate in something so much bigger than ourselves and so different from other funding opportunities. Now, more than ever, we must embrace our commitment to empowering women to transform their communities through \$100,000 impact grants.

You have the full support of the Impact100 Council. We will continue to connect our Impact100 Chapters together to share and learn. We will emerge from these times, stronger and better equipped to lead our teams. Impact100 is a remarkable beacon of hope, and I am so incredibly proud of all you do to make the world a better place.