

From: **Chelsea Brock** info@impact100sonoma.org  
Subject: Fwd: December 2017 Newsletter  
Date: November 29, 2018 at 8:04 PM  
To:



## Important Announcements

**Holiday Volunteer Event at Redwood Empire Food Bank**  
Redwood Empire Food Bank has a real need for volunteers to assemble food boxes for their holiday food distribution. Their greatest need is the week before Christmas. Impact100 Sonoma will be holding a member "volunteer day" at REFB's Santa Rosa facility. Volunteers will tour REFB and "stuff" bags of food for distribution to families and individuals in need, on December 19th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Please contact Pam Gilbert to [RSVP](#).

**Giving Back at Our Holiday Party**  
As part of our post-fire response, Impact100 Sonoma is supporting the Sonoma Valley Holiday Program by asking members to bring a VISA gift card to our Holiday Party. Many local residents are living at or below poverty level and are under the radar of nonprofit outreach programs. Gift cards are a valuable and much-needed gift to this population! Please bring a VISA gift card in any amount to [donate](#) at the Holiday Party.



## Presidents' Letter

As we say goodbye to 2017, we reflect that it has been both an exciting and a challenging year for Impact100 Sonoma and our members. On one hand, we were thrilled to grow our membership to 290 members - a record which enabled us to give an unprecedented amount to help our local nonprofit community. On the other hand, it was a tragic year because of the devastation caused by the October fires, which have challenged our community in so many ways.

If there is a bright spot from the fires, it is that we already had, and have, a powerhouse of connected volunteers in our Impact members, our nonprofits, and others in the community, who are doing so much to begin the rebuilding and healing process. The stories of escape and loss have been heart-wrenching; but the support (emotional and otherwise) has been heart-warming.

We are personally so grateful to be part of Impact - a sisterhood of women to lean on and with whom we can do so much good for the community and each other. Looking forward, we hope each and every one of you will rejoin us for the upcoming year. We have a lot of work to do, and together we can truly make a difference for the nonprofits we serve.

December 1, 2017

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### Impact100 Sonoma Highlights:

**Renew Your Membership Today!**  
There is no better time than now to help us in our mission. So please say, "count me in", and renew your membership in Impact100 Sonoma now for 2018. [Click here](#) to see which level is right for you.

## Quick Calendar

**December 7 - Holiday Party, Vintage House, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.** Please bring a guest or two who might like to become members. RSVP [here](#).

**December 19 - Holiday Volunteer Event at Redwood Empire Food Bank, REFB Santa Rosa Facility 11:00 - 1:00 pm.** Gather your family and friends to volunteer. Contact Pam Gilbert to [RSVP](#).

**January 9 - Murphy's Happy Hour, Murphy's Pub, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.** Bring your friends, spouse or partner to this casual and fun evening. No RSVP needed.

**January 20 - Annual Meeting, Vintage House, 10:00 am - Noon.** Members only. It's not too early to mark your calendar for this informative and fun event. Watch for an invitation in December.

[Details in the full calendar.](#)

### Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

truly make a difference for the nonprofits we serve.

We wish you all a happy, and healing, holiday season.



Impact100 Sonoma Co-Presidents  
Gera Vaz, Lynne Lancaster and Judith Walsh

## Renew Your Membership Today

As we enter the holiday season we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for. As members of Impact100 Sonoma we are grateful for the powerful impact that our collective financial commitment makes in our community. Friends, neighbors and family have asked many of us how they can help Sonoma Valley in the wake of the fires. The answer is simple - ask them to join Impact! We also encourage you, our current members, to rejoin. There is no better time than now to help us in our mission. So please say "count me in" and [renew your membership](#) in Impact100 Sonoma now for 2018.

This year, we've made it even easier for you to find the membership level that is right for you. We still have our Basic Membership level of \$1,000, and for those interested in becoming a Member *Plus*, we have convenient categories for you to choose from. [Click here](#) to see which level is right for you.

## Drive Our Impact: Join a 2018 Grants Committee

One of the most fulfilling ways to participate as an Impact100 Sonoma member is to serve on a Grants Review Committee - this is the core of our mission as a giving circle. "Being a part of the Grants Committee process was extremely rewarding," said member Linda Dougherty. "I learned so much about the local nonprofits, the needs of the community and really got to know some wonderful Impact100 members who I would not otherwise have met."

The Grants team is actively recruiting Grants Review Committee members for the 2018 grants cycle. Committees kick off in late January with an orientation session followed by 3 - 4 committee meetings February to May, including at least one site visit to a candidate nonprofit organization. Committees review grant applications and select the finalists that will be presented to our entire membership for voting. You can serve on either a Community Grants (up to \$20K), or an Impact Grant (the single \$100K grant) Review Committee.

No prior experience is needed to join. The process is engaging and enlightening and helps our members get to know each other more deeply and become more involved with Sonoma Valley nonprofits. You can learn more on our website: [Grants Review Committee membership](#).

These committee spots are limited in number. We will start a waitlist as soon as they are filled. Please contact Robin Layton at [robin@impact100sonoma.org](mailto:robin@impact100sonoma.org) and indicate if you are interested in Community Grants, the Impact Grant, if you are fine with either one, or if you'd like someone to contact you for more information.

Many thanks!

The Grants Team

## Member Recruitment Event!

[Grant Info](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Community Calendar](#)

[Members' Portal](#)

[Contact Us](#)





On November 16th, Impact100 Sonoma hosted a new member recruitment gathering at the beautiful home of member Mary Clark Janis. About 28 people attended, including 10 guests. By the time the evening was over, one new member had signed up on the spot, and six more had pledged to join by the end of the year! The casual mix-and-mingle atmosphere was paired with wine, light appetizers and a salad buffet. After everyone settled in by the fireplace, Co-President Gera Vaz gave an overview of Impact100 Sonoma, and Tracy Reynolds and Chelsie Runnings each spoke about their experiences as new members. Lynne Lancaster and Mary Marcussen also shared brief remarks about their roles with grants committees and the NextGen program, respectively. Mary Clark Janis' home seems to be a magic spot for these events - everyone loves being there and she is a gracious host. Thank you, Mary Clark and all of the attendees for a special evening!

## Grants Symposium for Nonprofits a Big Success!



At our annual nonprofit educational symposium on November 14, twenty-five representatives from local organizations were led in a workshop titled *"Make Your Message Make an Impact: Crafting a Coherent, Persuasive Elevator Speech"* by Lynne Lancaster, author, public speaker and Co-President of Impact100 Sonoma. The interactive session gave attendees an opportunity to create a compelling message and to practice delivering it. They also received tips about how to tailor their message for various audiences and how to incorporate it into their written grant proposals. Lynne's expertise and good humor ensured that the workshop was educational as well as fun!

The educational symposium was followed by a brief grant application workshop led by Grants Oversight Chair Claudia Sims. Claudia reviewed the grant application process and announced changes for the upcoming 2018 Grant Cycle.

## Friendship and Comfort at Murphy's!



The Snug at Murphy's got even snuggier when forty-four, yes forty-four, members and guests gathered on November 7 to connect, share stories and support one another after the devastating fires impacted our community. Diana Bugg, our gracious host from the Member Engagement Committee, greeted everyone but ran out of nametags as we set a record for Murphy's attendance.

The spirit of the evening, however, was not in short supply. Lynne Lancaster, Co-President and Grants Committee Chair, introduced the crowd to our enthusiastic new cohort of NextGen members for 2018. Another of our Co-Presidents, Gera Vaz, who is also Membership Chair, summed up the gathering, "It was a great evening and underscored how much everyone wanted to be together and to share. It was also nice to have potential members see the support that we provide to one another. It does take a village!"

That says it all. Many thanks go out to Murphy's Pub for providing the venue for Impact100, and to the helpful and hard-working servers.

## In Memoriam



We remember founding and long-time Impact100 Sonoma member Rose Murphy who passed away on November 20. Rose and her husband were some of Sonoma Valley's best, having founded Murphy's Irish Pub while sharing their love of Irish literature and tradition with the community. A true philanthropist, Rose has supported countless charitable organizations along with Impact100 Sonoma. We will miss Rose's Irish spirit as our hearts go out to her family and friends.

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