

IMPACT100 Garden State



*Summer Edition
August 2015*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Elisabeth MacDonald

Ahhh, the dog days of summer. Time to relax by the pool or beach or lake, with a good book and a cool drink. Yet for those members serving on one of our five Grant Committees, this summer has been anything but quiet! Our Committees have been hard at work evaluating the 73 applications that we received for our two \$102,000 grants - - reading and scoring the applications, deciding on which applicants deserve a site visit, insuring that financial reviews are completed on those applicants, and finally, choosing which "finalists" will present their projects at the November 4 Annual Meeting.



The coordination and oversight of this significant effort has been capably managed by our Grant Committee chairs: Marijane Lundt, Lisa Barsky Firkser, Storm Rose, Barbara Curran, Sharon Ryan Montgomery, Nancy Dougherty, Arleen Lipsman, Holly Blumenstyk, and Maureen Mulligan. The Financial Review Committee has also sharpened its pencil this summer, to assist the Grant Committees in analyzing the nonprofit applicants. Led by Board member Mary Jane Robertson, the financial reviews have been completed by Joyce Barnish, Trish Grushkin, Ann Ryan and Margaret Stone. Thank you ladies, for making

such important contributions to the mission of Impact 100 Garden State.

And finally, a special thank you to Christine DiCesare and Suzanne Herrmann. Board members Christine and Puddy are the driving force behind the entire grant process. The time and effort and care that both ladies put into their work as Grant Chairs is extraordinary. We are lucky to have them on the Impact 100 Garden State team.

So, stay-tuned for the September 30 announcement of our finalists and make sure that your calendar is marked for the November 4 Annual Meeting.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Elisabeth MacDonald, President, Impact 100 Garden State

EVENTS CALENDAR

Non-Profit Community



Saturday, August 22

Big Dan's Bike Shop - Pop-up shop

Noon - 3 pm

Big Dan's Bike Shop

Pop-up shop

520 N. Bridge Street

Somerville, NJ

Member Events

Saturday,

"Fall on the Farm"

3 pm - 5 pm - Tour &

5 pm - 7 pm - Dinner

America's Grow-a-

150 Pittstown Road



September 12, 2015

Harvest

Row's Farm

Pittstown, NJ 08867

[Fall on the Farm Details](#)



Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Annual Meeting



Thursday, December 10, 2015

Holiday Member Party

5 pm - 7 pm

Community Foundation of New Jersey (CFNJ)

35 Knox Hill Road

Morristown, New Jersey 07963

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without you!

As a volunteer organization Impact 100 Garden State relies heavily on its members to participate in various roles to make our wheels turn. Along with over 70 members signed up to serve on a grant committee, many members volunteer to participate in membership events, review financial information for prospective charity recipients, welcome new members and grow and perpetuate the Impact 100 membership and mission.



Arleen Lipsman - Grant Committee volunteer and co-chair of Environment/Preservation/Recreation

"I find participating in the grant evaluation process very rewarding from several perspectives. I enjoy learning about the many worthwhile projects the nonprofits are pursuing and interfacing with the staff of those organizations. I also enjoy meeting the members of Impact 100 and getting to know them through their involvement on the Environment committee. The ultimate satisfaction comes when our membership decides what worthy organization will receive the funds to pursue a dream and make it become a reality because of us. It is the legacy I believe that motivates all of us to be a part of this great organization Impact 100 Garden State."

Jennifer Byington and Carolyn Byington - "Making it a Family Affair"

Jennifer Byington and her daughter, Carolyn, made it a



family affair by both getting involved with Impact 100 Garden State. Jennifer is volunteering on the Health and Wellness Grant Committee. Carolyn is serving as an intern to assist with coding and loading e-Tap (our database management system) with all our non-profit and contact information as well as tracking our grant history from the beginning.

Thanks to Our Interns



Ryan Servais and Kathleen Schlegel

Our fabulous summer interns, Ryan Servais - rising sophomore at Boston University, and Kathleen Schlegel - rising sophomore at Holy Cross, present their project at our August Board meeting. They have further developed a tool to collect, learn from and compare data from other Impact chapters with the goal of fostering communication among the over 20 Impacts in existence. Throughout the summer, they have advanced a project started

by our pro bono interns from Notre Dame, AJ Crosley and Laura LeBrun, who worked under the guidance of our former intern Mary Schlegel at Notre Dame throughout the spring.

SPOTLIGHT ON RECIPIENTS

The grant process is one of the most important parts of Impact 100 Garden State. As most of you know, over 70 member volunteers serve on committees for each of our five grant categories, review the grant applications we receive, conduct site visits and select the finalists who present and are voted on at our Annual Meeting. It has been almost a year since we voted to award two grants - one to America's Grow-a-Row in collaboration with The Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown, and one to Middle Earth's Big Dan's Bike Shop. We wanted to share an update with our members on where each of the 2014 projects currently stand, as well as news for Combat Paper, the recipient of our 2013 inaugural grant.

America's Grow-a-Row/Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown

America's Grow -a-Row (AGAR) and the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown (CSK) received a one year grant of \$100,000 to expand the



America's Grow-a-Row

availability of fresh produce and basic staples to those in need in Morris County.

With this grant AGAR promised to deliver 50,000 pounds (compared to 23,000 pounds in 2013) of fresh produce to CSK for weekly Morris County Farm Fresh Markets (MCFFM). CSK promised that they would provide to the MCFFM fresh produce such as whole grains, 1% milk, eggs and lean meat throughout the year. The CSK donation will total 16,000 pounds of food. This amounts to 66,000 pounds of food to be distributed in 2015. This is a simple and impactful project. AGAR plants, grows and harvests the food and CSK hosts MCFFM throughout the year to distribute the food. [**Youth Participate in AGAR Farm Day**](#)

This is the first collaborative grant given by Impact 100 Garden State. Where are we at the end of the second quarter of 2015? The MCFFM have increased from two to four per week. Approximately 300 families per week have received needed food. By June 30, 2015, 44,767 pounds of food will have been distributed. By the end of 2015, the goal of 66,000 pounds of food will be far exceeded.

We thank AGAR and CSK for their dedication to serving those in need. We also thank the dedicated volunteers who serve at these organizations who make this happen.



Join us at the Farm on September 12th. Detailed information can be found in events section of this newsletter.

[**CSK Receives \\$100,000 Grant**](#)

[**Middle Earth - Big Dan's Bike Shop**](#)

Middle Earth received a two year grant of \$85,000 to fund expansion of the Big Dan's Bike Shop program. The purpose of this program is to help at-risk youth, ages 12 - 18, develop a work ethic, mechanical skills, basic business skills, employment readiness and business awareness while building self-esteem and confidence under the guidance of Middle Earth staff, community volunteers and local college volunteers.





Big Dan's Bike Shop is using our grant to expand its service and reach 20 additional participants. Their target population faces challenges such as gangs, bullying, drug/alcohol use, low economic status and single parent families. The program introduces participants to practical job experience by means of youth-run pop up bike shops supplied with donated bicycles that they refurbish. During our July visit, we witnessed a group in the process of refurbishment with the focused and enthusiastic guidance of counselors and a student volunteer from the Enactus Club at Raritan Valley Community College.

Our community is grateful for Middle Earth's continuing efforts to help at-risk youth manage their many challenges and develop employment readiness skills.

Please come see Big Dan's in action at the upcoming pop up shop **THIS SATURDAY**, as mentioned in our Events section.



COMBAT PAPER NJ

Combat Paper NJ/ Printmaking Service of New Jersey (PCNJ)

Our inaugural recipient continues to flourish. During its four years in operation it has served over 1,000 veterans and is now ready to be its own 501(c)3 called Frontline Arts. Dave Keefe and the other veterans who have been running Combat Paper will continue to operate Frontline Arts. All equipment and materials will move to the newly formed pending 501(c)3. Under Frontline Arts, Combat Paper will continue to provide workshops across New Jersey, Washington D.C. and now Maine and New York City. They continually express gratitude for the support Impact 100 Garden State provided that allowed them to truly go mobile.



Combat Paper is a poster child for our mission to support transformative and sustainable programs, and we are proud to be associated with them. See the attached link to their website for details.

PCNJ - Combat Paper NJ



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