

# IMPACT100 Garden State



*Fall/Winter Edition  
December 2015*



## ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

The Annual Members Meeting is the culmination of dedication and hard work from our members and member volunteers throughout the year. Not only do members vote on the grant recipients, they also have the opportunity to mingle, catch-up and get to know each other.

Over 100 Impact 100 Garden State members attended the annual meeting on November 4 at the Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge to hear the six grant finalists present their programs and to cast their votes for the award recipients. As a result of these live votes and those submitted by absentee ballot, the Head Start Community Program of Morris County and the New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) were each awarded a grant of \$102,500. Over 70 organizations from Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Sussex counties.



Arleen Lipsman and Barbara Moran welcome and check in members at the annual meeting.

We'd also like to thank the support we receive from Community Foundation of

New Jersey (CFNJ) and our corporate sponsors and friends. All of whom help to make the organization run smoothly and make the annual meeting possible.

Margarethe Laurenzi, Director of Leadership Grantmaking and Engagement for the Community Foundation of New Jersey (CFNJ), presented the keynote address, highlighting the impact of women's role in philanthropy.



Clare McCoy, Wealth Director BNY Mellon Wealth Management, a corporate sponsor of the event, stands with board member, Cathy Vinnicombe

During the evening, members also had



Margarethe Laurenzi, CFNJ

the opportunity to hear from Impact 100's 2014 grant recipients: Chip Paillex, Founder and President of America's Grow-A-Row, Teresa Connelly, Executive Director of the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center in Morristown, and Maria Strada, Executive Director of Middle Earth. The recipients emphasized that Impact 100 Garden State has provided them with the inspiration and resources to implement programs that serve at-risk residents in their local

communities.

"As a new member of Impact 100 Garden State, I was greatly impressed by the quality of the finalists' programs and the efficiency of the voting process," states Debbie Catena of Montville who attended her first Impact 100 annual meeting. "It's clear that our collective contributions will go a long way toward helping people in New Jersey. "

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and prosperous 2016 from the Impact 100 Garden State Board.



**2015-2016 Impact 100 Garden State Board Members**

Front Row Sitting (l-r) Carole Rogers, Kathy Teti, Elisabeth MacDonald, Bonnie Gardner;  
 2nd Row Standing (l-r) Suzanne Herrmann, Cathy Vinnicombe, Helene Kennedy, Lesley Draper, Merle Johnson, Sally Epstein;  
 3rd Row (l-r) Ann Ryan, Christine DiCesare, Mary Jane Robertson;  
 Not Pictured: Markie Burke and Molly Dunn

## 2015 GRANT RECIPIENTS

**FreePair Paterson** will help to bridge the gap between two generations - youth ages 16-24 who have dropped out of high school, and the elderly and disabled living in poverty. These youths will be given the opportunity to obtain their GED and a vocational certificate in construction, receiving on-the-job training repairing the homes of some 500 elderly and disabled homeowners or renters who cannot afford to make the repairs themselves.

**Organization:** [New Jersey Community Development Corporation](#)



Standing (l-r) Bonnie Torcivia, Moira O'Connell, Joyce Sharaf, Sue Lapin, Donna McNamara  
 Seated (l-r) Lisa Lowe; Vicky Hernandez, NJCDC Chief Program Officer; Seth Friedman, NJCDC Director of Development; Storm Rose

**The Early Language and Literacy Program** is designed to help young children from low-income Morris County families, the majority of which are Spanish speaking, develop their vocabulary and conversation ability. The program has two key components: teacher coaching and education programs for parents about ways to promote language and literacy in the home, including bilingual children's books for families. **Organization:** [Head Start Community Program of Morris County](#).



Pictured (l-r standing) Susan O'Donnell, Executive Director of Head Start, Judy Josephson, Head Start Board Vice President; Vicky Hernandez, NJCDC, Seth Friedman, NJCDC, and Impact 100 President Elisabeth MacDonald. Seated (l-r) Impact 100 Grant Committee Chairs Christine DiCesare and Suzanne Herrmann

## MEMBERSHIP

### ONE + ONE = IMPACT

#### **Refer a Friend Help Our Impact Grow**

If every member refers one friend, we will be over 400 members strong in 2016 and able to offer more than \$400,000 in grants to worthy nonprofits. Help us meet this goal and increase our impact!

[Membership for 2016 is now open](#)

**TAX NOTE: IF YOU WANT YOUR MEMBER DUES TO COUNT AS A 2015 TAX**

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*by Elisabeth MacDonald*



Holiday greetings to you! As I write this message, it is 62 degrees outside with nary a snowflake in sight. Hard to believe that it is mid-December in New Jersey. Of course, when it is a frigid day in February, I will wish for such balmy weather!

For those of us who have been involved with Impact 100 for some time, we have finally realized that the work of our organization is never done! Recently, I had the chance to attend the annual meeting of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers ([www.cnjg.org](http://www.cnjg.org)) together with my fellow Board members, Sally Epstein and Suzanne Herrmann. (The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers is an organization that serves roughly 120 foundations, corporate giving programs, and other public grant-making entities in New Jersey. CNJG runs seminars, offers educational workshops and convenes conferences, all for the benefit of these 120 philanthropic organizations.) At this annual luncheon, Sally, Suzanne and I were able to chat with numerous grant making organizations. Needless to say, all of the grantmakers with whom we spoke were *greatly* impressed by (1) how much money we have raised and in such a short period of time; (2) the variety of our grant recipients and the interesting programs that we are funding; and (3) the fact that we operate with no paid staff. This unsolicited feedback reaffirmed for me that we are an incredible group of women who are making terrific things happen in our state. And speaking of terrific things, you all know by now that we awarded two \$102,500 grants at our Annual Awards Meeting in early November. My thanks to Cathy Vinnicombe, our Special Events Chair, who made it an evening to remember, and to all the grant chairs for their thoughtful work. Our newest grant recipients, FreePair Paterson and The Early Language and Literacy Program of Head Start of Morris County are proud to be a part of the Impact 100 Garden State family. We are confident that our \$102,500 grants will enable both programs to make significant progress in serving their constituencies. So, as we near the close of 2015, I want to thank the 205 women of Impact 100 Garden State for making this year such a success. From Membership to Grants to Special Events, we couldn't accomplish such success without your time and generosity. And I ask that you "spread the word" and consider inviting your friends and neighbors to join us in our quest to become one of the most

important philanthropic organizations in our area.  
Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy 2016!  
Elisabeth  
*Elisabeth MacDonald, President, Impact 100 Garden State*

We'd love your feedback

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