

## Let's get to know Toni Hamner

Toni Hamner, one of Impact 100's founders, talks about women and philanthropy, volunteering, and her super power.

**Where did you grow up?** I was born in Greenwich, CT and as many of my generation was moved frequently due to my father's work with St. Regis Paper Company. I lived in Rowayton, CT; Dallas; Winnetka, IL (twice); Columbus, OH; São Paulo, Brazil; Fairfield and Southport, CT; Vero Beach; and NYC – all before graduating from college. I went to school all over but high school was Westover School in Middlebury, Ct and then college at Flinch College in NYC. I graduated with a double major in Spanish and Art History. After college, I lived in Norcross, GA, Tullahoma, TN, Chamblee, GA, and finally, in 1978, found permanence in Vero Beach, FL. I am a lifelong learner and have unofficial and uncredentialed skills in many areas.

**Tell us about your family?** I met my husband George in West End in the Bahamas. We were both from Vero and, ironically, friends had been trying to get us to meet for years. When ready to raise a family in 1978 we returned to Vero for George to join the family citrus concern. His family goes back in Vero to 1917 and mine to the 1930's. George and I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

**Tell us about your working life.** I held several managerial jobs but the most fun was working for an orthodontist in Atlanta. Many famous smiles passed through our office. Volunteering in the communities in which I have lived has been the stimulus that has kept me going beyond family life. Highlights of my volunteer life include the March of Dimes walk, helping start the Vero Beach Museum of Art, chairing the Children's Arts Festival for seven years when it was held outside in Riverside Park, helping to found and build the Children's Theater and Saint Edward's School, mentoring high school girls, and, of course, helping to start IMPACT100IR.

**You are a busy lady. Do you find time for hobbies?** I love gardening, needlepoint, traveling the world, and listening to and reading books.

**What's a fun fact about you not many people know?** I was a governess in Portugal and lived in a grand house in Lisbon, built in 1490 with real suits of armor in the front hallway that had been worn to the crusades!

**If you could invite one person, living or deceased, to dinner, who would it be and why?** My Great grandmother and time travel back to her home in Manhattan c. 1875!

**Where's your favorite vacation?** My favorite place in the world is probably in Africa, but I need to travel there more to find the exact spot.

**What's the last book you read?** Reimagining Capitalism in a World on Fire.

**What three words best describe you?** Busy, hands on, driven.

**What food can you not live without?** I love food so I just can't zero in.

**You were one of the founders of Impact 100. Tell us about it.** I was one of the original members of Women in Philanthropy. I became involved because I knew Ellie McCabe and my father gave me a shove! Starting Impact100 was a simple move for me. I attended an ALL WOMEN high school and college and knew that women function differently than men in life as well as philanthropy. When I heard the Impact story it spoke to me. We need to keep this system as it is, honoring our name and founder. "Let the men start their own "Men who make an impact" and we can keep IMPACT100

**What do you love most about being a member?** Impact 100 offers so many options for growth. The key is 100 women working together to make an impactful grant that will change the community. One grant for every 100 women. One woman, \$1,000, one vote. I love that we can vote once for each \$100,000 if we have 2,3 or 400 members.

**Do you have any advice for new members?** Step Up – Lean In, and really learn what IMPACT is all about. You will learn your community by engaging.

**What is your superpower?** Giving

