

Meet Our First President, Sherry Brown, as she talks about starting Impact 100

Sherry Brown, Impact 100's first president, talks about why Impact was started, fundraising, and working with her husband, David.

You were the first president of Impact 100.

Tells us how it got started. I was invited by Ellie McCabe to be on the steering committee for Women and Philanthropy to create another vehicle to support nonprofits in a different and more diverse way. Out of this evolved the leadership team, which became the Impact 100 board. I was one of five women who raised our hands and said, "We want to do this!" I served as the first president for two years.

What ignited the spark for Impact 100? The rise in the "power of women" both financially and in the workforce over the past decades made the timing perfect for starting a local chapter of Impact 100. The concept of collective giving resonated with lots of women who stepped up to make it happen. First and foremost, we wanted to make a significant impact in the community by pooling our resources. Secondly, women wanted to be a part of an all-women's charitable organization. And, lastly, everyone would get a vote to express where they wanted the money to go.

You've been a member of Impact 100 going on 15 years. What do you love most about being a member? The Power of Women! Seeing a group of women come together and seeing the changes we've been able to bring about for the community. The impact of giving \$100,000 is tremendous. And it's helped the nonprofits come up to another level, which in turn helps the community. A really neat way to support our neighbors.

Let's get to know you. I grew up in Fairmont, WV, where I lived through much of my married life. I attended West Virginia University and graduated with a BS in elementary education, with a specialization in speech and drama from Fairmont State University.

Tell us about your family. I met my husband David at West Virginia University. We've been married for 54 years. We moved to Vero in 1998. Our daughter Beth, who is a member of Impact 100, lives here in Vero and owns a pet-sitting business. Our son Charlie lives in Bend, OR with his wife Tia and our two grandchildren ages 9 and 12.



Member
Spotlight

SHERRY
BROWN

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INDIAN RIVER
IMPACT 100

Tell us about your career. Early on I worked in elementary education. When our children were born, I focused on raising them. Then I went to work with David and ran the departments for custom bath and kitchen design and other departments in the store. I also did commercial interior design for our five home stores. The highlight of this time was working together. We got along and are still married!!

What are your favorite hobbies? I love to read and play golf.

What's a fun fact about you that not many people know? When I was president of the Junior League many years ago, I initiated bringing live, professional children's theater to Fairmont, WV through the Junior League. Most of these children had never seen live theater before so it was quite a rewarding experience.

Where's your favorite vacation? I like cruising – you only have to unpack once.

What's the last book you read? Blow Out by James Patterson

What three words best describe you? fun-loving, creative and sociable

What one food can you not live without? Vodka and ice cream, and sometimes together!!!

Do you have any advice for new members? Get involved. When I moved here, I was new. We'd come for golf or vacation with the kids but had never lived here full-time. We liked that it wasn't big but had sophistication. I started getting involved and met some wonderful women with whom I became very good friends. We were all volunteering our time and went on from there. I have been raising money for the community especially – the Hospital, Riverside Theater, United Against Poverty, and the museum besides Impact 100 since I moved here in 1998.

What is your superpower? My husband, fundraising and doing events