Meet the Impact100 Global Team

Behind Impact100 Global is a small but passionate team committed to advancing this global movement of women's collective giving. Our team supports chapters around the world through personalized coaching, training, and community building. Together, our team is dedicated to helping chapters grow stronger, collaborate effectively, and maximize their impact.

Wendy H. Steele

Founder & Chief Impact Officer

A dedicated philanthropist, passionate entrepreneur, and inspiring speaker, Wendy Steele is the founder of Impact100, a grassroots global movement that has given away nearly $160 million since its inception in 2001. From a young age, her family instilled in her the value of giving back with the intention of leaving the world a little better than she found it, leading Steele to dedicate much of her adult life encouraging generosity in all its forms.

Before focusing exclusively on philanthropic work, Wendy enjoyed a successful career in banking that culminated in a Senior Vice President role. Even her decision to pursue this profession was inspired by a desire to give back, after witnessing her grandfather help countless members of his community through his own work as a banker.

In 2023, Wendy released her bestselling book, Invitation to Impact: Lighting the Path to Community Transformation. Filled with personal stories and expert guidance, she shares the origin story of Impact100, including the problem-solving rationale behind this innovative philanthropy model, and why she was ultimately compelled to pivot from a successful banking career into full-time work at Impact100 Global. She observes that there are two kinds of people: those who see the problems in the world and realize they can be a part of the solution and those who still need to be invited to the party. Today, she continues her work with Impact100 Global to invite women across the globe to the party and to empower them to create transformational change in their local communities.

Wendy has received numerous awards for her work in philanthropy, including the honor of being named a 2024 USA TODAY Woman of the Year. Also in 2024, Steele received an Anthem Award for Humanitarian Action & Services, Best Local Community Engagement for her work with Impact100 Global. In 2021, she was named by Forbes as one of fifty women over fifty who are leading the world in impact. In 2020, Wendy was named a Distinguished Honoree of the Jones Prize in Philanthropy, an award which "honors someone who demonstrates the willingness to volunteer time, resources, and talents to improve the human condition, beyond themselves."

Considered the Nobel Prize for community service, Steele was awarded the 2014 Jefferson Award for Public Service for her work with Impact100.

Her work in philanthropy has been featured in several books, including The Transformative Power of Women's Philanthropy; Women, Wealth and Giving; Creating a Women's Giving Circle; and The Right Sisters—Women Inventors Tell Their Stories. Steele remains deeply committed to giving back to her community and wholeheartedly believes that each of us has something important to give.

Hailey Kearney

Impact Initiatives Specialist

The importance of giving has been instilled in Hailey from a very young age and she finds true joy in helping others. She believes there is no better way to empower women than to bring them together for good. Hailey is a current member of Impact100 East Bay and resides in Fairfield, California. She has also been a member of Impact100 Traverse City. She has volunteered on several projects for Impact100 Global including researching and developing marketing content, social media management, and collaborating to illuminate the power of Impact100 to new audiences.

Hailey has been immersed in Impact100 since its launch in 2001. She has traveled with her mom to various Impact100 events and celebrations where she's connected with and been inspired by countless amazing women doing transformational work in their communities.

After receiving the benefits of inspiring teachers who drew out her strengths and taught her to advocate for her learning needs, Hailey vowed to pay it forward by helping future students receive this same gift. What began as student teaching and mentorship evolved into a role as a special education teacher. With a focus on empowering diverse learners to reach their highest potential, Hailey created student-specific plans to maximize success and leverage inherent skills and aptitudes.

In the 2023/2024 school year, Hailey was honored to receive the prestigious Teacher of the Year Award in recognition of her dedication and excellence in her work. A natural bridge-builder, Hailey was elected as a leader to mediate various school groups to ensure all voices were heard and consensus was reached among opposing viewpoints. To cultivate a culture of trust and respect while nurturing relationships around her school, Hailey founded and led a committee that planned team-building activities, social events, and teacher recognition.

In both her personal and professional lives, Hailey believes that uniting forces brings stronger and better results. By embracing the diverse gifts each person holds and understanding the strength in working together, Hailey strives to make an impact in the lives of others each day.

Laurie Sheehan

Impact Expansion Specialist

Laurie Sheehan joined the Impact100 Global team in 2024 as Impact Expansion Specialist. In this role, Laurie enthusiastically assists women in launching new Impact100 chapters in local communities and supports existing chapters in their efforts to expand impact and increase efficiencies through connection, guidance, and resources. She passionately believes that Impact100 is game-changing for nonprofits and life-changing for members and is grateful for this opportunity to "launch and lift" chapters to drive this change.

Laurie's own story with Impact100 began over 20 years ago when she watched her mother help launch and nurture one of the very first Impact100 chapters in her hometown of Pensacola, Florida. She was inspired not only by the transformative lift for local nonprofits but also by Impact100's ability to empower and engage women from all life stages and backgrounds (including her 90-year-old grandmother) in meaningful philanthropy. It was clear that Impact100 was paving a unique and accessible path to generosity that was intentional and informed, powerful yet personal.

In 2022, Laurie became a third-generation Impact-er and fulfilled her longtime dream of launching a chapter in her local community as a Founding Board Member and Recruiting Chair of Impact100 Atlanta. She continues her commitment and board service as President of the Atlanta chapter, where she is known for being an inspiring leader, compelling advocate, and creative jack of all trades.

Above and beyond her passion, Laurie brings a wealth of nonprofit expertise to Impact100 Global. She is an accomplished attorney, having started her career in corporate/M&A practice before transitioning to the nonprofit sector. For 15 years, Laurie served as legal counsel to the American Cancer Society at their global headquarters in Atlanta, advising on mission programs and grant-making as Assistant General Counsel. After leaving in-house practice in 2017, Laurie continued to advise the Society and other local nonprofits as outside counsel.

Laurie earned her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied Psychology and Business, and her J.D. from the University of Georgia in Athens. Laurie and her husband, Gary, live in the Virginia Highland neighborhood of Atlanta, where they enjoy "launching and lifting" their three children, Connor, Hayden & Brendan, and their extroverted golden retriever, Hobbes.