

# Impact 100 nears end of Membership drive

- By Renee Beasley Jones Messenger-Inquirer

To celebrate its 13th year, Impact 100 Owensboro set a goal to enroll 300 members this year.

If the campaign is successful, it will set a record high membership for the local group.

The deadline to pledge is March 31.

As of Wednesday, Impact 100 had 185 1/2 members, said Debbie Fillman, an Impact 100 board member. Women who do not want to pledge \$1,000 can donate \$500 for a half-membership.

"We're up 49 members from the same date last year," Fillman said.

As far as first-time members, the group is a little ahead, too. By this time last year, Impact 100 had 44 new members, as compared to the current 47.

The group's all-time high membership came in 2008, when 258 women signed up.

Impact 100 is for women only. The charity focuses on pooling resources — \$1,000 each — to create change and improve the greater Owensboro area.

Each woman who gives \$1,000 has one vote in selecting annual grant recipients. Those who donate \$500 receive a half vote.

Most often, the group gives two \$100,000 grants a year, along with smaller residual grants.

Since the membership drive started earlier this year, Impact 100 has hosted two receptions — one at SIP and another just last week at Bar Louie.

"We've had a lot of responses from that," Fillman said.

Carol Bothwell, the nonprofit's president, will make a plea for new members Friday morning on WBKR, and the group has pumped out messages by mail and on social media through its #300FORLUCKY13 campaign.

Impact 100 hopes businesses light up their marquees with membership reminders.

Even with the deadline so near, Fillman said there's a chance the group can hit 300 members. "A lot of people procrastinate," she said.

Owensboro is the smallest community to have an Impact 100, but if 1 percent of the women in Daviess County joined, it would push membership to about 400, Fillman said.

Impact 100 formed in 2006. Since then, it has contributed almost \$3 million to the community.

Members don't have to pay in full when they join. They can pay in monthly installments or wait until September to pay.

Pledges are needed now, Fillman said, because the nonprofit needs to know how much money it has in order to plan on the number of grants it plans to give.

Grants must fit in one of Impact 100's priority areas: culture, education, environment and recreation, family, or health and wellness.

Also, joining by March 31 allows women to become involved in the process, which runs through October.

To join, go to [impact100owensboro.org](http://impact100owensboro.org), or call any members.

Renee Beasley Jones, 270-228-2835, [rbeasleyjones@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:rbeasleyjones@messenger-inquirer.com)