

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 100 Women Who Care - Chelsea Area?**

It is a giving circle based on the simple concept of bringing local women together to make maximum impact for a nonprofit organization in a minimal amount of time. Three meetings each year are only one hour long. In that time members select a nonprofit organization and thousands of dollars are raised for that non-profit organization. There's no volunteering, no telemarketing, no event planning, no silent auction item donations to solicit. There is simply the joy of giving back to our own communities with an Impact Award.

One goal of this giving circle is the Impact Award but we also believe learning about nonprofit organizations serving our communities can be just as powerful. As a side benefit, come meet like-minded women!

### **What does "Chelsea Area" mean?**

Chelsea Area is Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Grass Lake, Stockbridge and adjacent communities.

To be qualified for consideration, a nonprofit organization must have a program supporting the all or some portion of the Chelsea Area. Members can be located anywhere though it is likely they also will be from the Chelsea Area.

### **Is 100 Women Who Care – Chelsea Area a 501(c)(3) organization?**

No, it is an informal group – a “giving circle” - where its Members support the nonprofit work done by others.

### **Is 100 Women Who Care – Chelsea Area affiliated with some national group?**

There is no national organization for 100 Women Who Care. However, there is an alliance of worldwide groups and through their website <https://www.100whocarealliance.org/> they provide resources for independent groups.

### **Who runs 100 Women Who Care – Chelsea Area?**

This giving circle is managed by a Steering Committee under the rules outlined in its Operating By-Laws. We have many volunteers that help with meetings, keep membership lists, assist in social media, communicate with nonprofit organizations, etc.

### **Who decides which nonprofit organizations receive an Impact Award?**

The Members do! Each Member or Member team will have one vote. Here's basically how it works: A Member nominates a nonprofit organization. All nominated nonprofit organizations receive some minimal vetting by our volunteers and eligible nonprofit organizations are included on a list available on our website [www.100wwcchelsea.org](http://www.100wwcchelsea.org). Prior to an Impact Award meeting, three of the eligible nonprofit organizations are selected at random and announced to the membership. Those three make a short presentation at the meeting. Members can ask questions. Then the Members vote and the one that gets the majority of votes will be awarded that meeting's Impact Award.

### **How much money does the nonprofit organization receive?**

The concept of 100 Women Who Care is that 100 women donate \$100 at each meeting. When that happens, the nonprofit organization receives \$10,000! The Member donation is always \$100 so when there are less Members, the total donation is less; more Members, a larger donation. The nonprofit organization receives 100% of the donation money. Our volunteers that make all this happen receive no compensation.

### **My husband is interested too. Can he join?**

No, this giving circle is only for women. But encourage him to start a men's group - 100 Men Who Care. They do exist!

## **Becoming a Member**

### **I want to be part of this!**

Complete the online Membership Form found on the website [100wwcchelsea.org/get-involved](http://100wwcchelsea.org/get-involved) (or print and scan a hard copy to [members@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:members@100wwcchelsea.org)). Members must commit to a \$300 donation per year, that is \$100 per meeting. The \$100 entitles the Member to one ballot when voting for a nonprofit organization.

### **Do I send money with the Membership Form?**

No. Donations are made payable to the nonprofit organization receiving the Impact Award has been announced. See more in "My Donation" section below.

### **Can I come to the meeting and sign up there?**

Yes. Or if you want to attend a meeting first, to check us out, feel free to do that. However we encourage you to submit your Membership Form in advance or come early to the meeting.

**I can't afford the \$300 per year donation commitment. Can I still participate?**

Yes. Get some friends to join up with you as a Member Team to split the donation commitment.

**Can I form a team with a group of my friends?**

Yes but we'd encourage individual membership for two reasons: First, managing teams is time consuming for our Volunteers and second and more important, the more Members the more dollars for the nonprofit organization! And isn't that the real purpose of this giving circle!

It's up to the team members to decide how to divide up the donation between themselves. Each team will have one vote for that \$100. To help our volunteers, we prefer one donation of \$100 per Member Team rather than multiple ones to track.

**I know now that I can't come to all the meetings. Will that be a problem?**

No. We email donation instructions generally the day following the Impact Award meeting.

However, when you know you'll miss several meetings for personal reasons but plan on returning to the giving circle, notify us by emailing [members@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:members@100wwcchelsea.org) and your status will be temporarily changed to inactive. When ready to return, you will be welcomed back! Unpaid donation commitments during that time can be waived if requested.

**Will you share my private information?**

Your name and email address will be included in a membership directory which is available to all current Members on request, with the understanding it is for networking not solicitation and will not be given to any outside party or made public.

However, your information will be shared with the nonprofit organization receiving your donation by the mere fact it appears on your check or included in any donation made using a nonprofit organization's online payment portal if they have that capability). Know the nonprofit organizations have to agree not to solicit our Members for donations.

**What if I want to drop out of the giving circle?**

A Member or Member Team may cancel their membership at any time by giving notice to the Membership Committee. Email [members@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:members@100wwcchelsea.org). Any remaining donation commitment will be waived.

## **Nonprofit Organizations**

### **How does a nonprofit organization get a chance to receive an Impact Award?**

To start the process, a nonprofit organization must be nominated by a Member and the nonprofit needs to agree to certain things. A volunteer will do some minimal vetting.

### **How does the nomination process work?**

A Member completes the Nomination Form found on our website [100wwcchelsea.org/get-involved](http://100wwcchelsea.org/get-involved) . They also need to get the nonprofit to complete the Nonprofit Organization Agreement form. Both forms should be emailed to [info@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:info@100wwcchelsea.org).

### **Does 100 Women check out (i.e. vet) the nonprofit organization that Members nominate?**

All are minimally vetted by 100 Women. To give you some idea: They must be a 501(c)(3) organization or be formally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization and support all or part of the Chelsea Area (Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, Manchester, Stockbridge and adjacent communities) and agree to certain other requirements. Volunteers do not, for example, check their financial information, how long the nonprofit has been operating, etc.

### **How do I know a nonprofit organization will spend the Impact Award funds wisely?**

With any donation to a nonprofit organization, you put your faith in their organization to spend the money appropriately. You can read their newsletters, website or annual report to learn about their work. It is no different with donations you make as a Member of this giving circle.

Note: We require the nonprofit organization to report back at the following meeting to inform us about how they have used the Impact Award.

### **Is there a deadline for nominating nonprofit organizations?**

Yes. For a nonprofit organization to be eligible for the next meeting, the Nomination Form and Nonprofit Organization Agreement Form must be received at least 1 month prior to the next meeting. We encourage much earlier submissions if possible. Meetings are four months apart so plan ahead.

### **Can a large nonprofit organization be nominated?**

A nonprofit organization can be large or small - size does not matter. Though national, international or other larger nonprofit organizations will not generally be considered by this giving circle.

However, a restricted Impact Award can be considered when that larger nonprofit organization has a local chapter and/or program which is proven to support all or part of the Chelsea Area (Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, Manchester, Stockbridge and adjacent communities). A restricted Impact Award tells the nonprofit organization that funds received must only be used for that purpose/program.

### **Does the nonprofit organization have to be a 501(c)(3) organization?**

501(c)(3) organizations must certify their charitable purpose to the IRS. This certification provides some comfort that charitable works are being done. Therefore only 501(c)(3) organizations will be considered by this giving circle.

However, nonprofit organizations without their own 501(c)(3) status that are formally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) may qualify when proof of funding allocations to the Chelsea Area can be validated.

### **Can the nonprofit organization be a church?**

This giving circle does not directly support religious organizations nor their religious missions.

However, when the religious organization provides some particular charitable work without the need for a religious association, a restricted Impact Award to that particular program could be considered. (Example: Soup kitchen for all residents run by a church.)

### **Does the nonprofit organization have to support people or can its mission be something else, for example animals or the environment?**

The nonprofit organization's mission can be anything. It will be for the Members to determine by ballot whether that nonprofit organization's mission is a cause they wish to support.

### **If the nonprofit organization does political lobbying, does this disqualify the nonprofit organization from consideration?**

Organizations whose primary purpose is to lobby, support political candidates and/or similar political matters do not qualify.

It is common that a nonprofit organization will attempt to persuade certain government organizations to provide funding or make legislation that supports their mission. This will not disqualify them.

## **Impact Award Meetings**

### **How many meetings are there and how long do they last?**

There are three 1-hour meetings each year. There probably will be a social hour prior to the actual meeting, giving you time to meet other Members and network.

### **When and where are meetings held?**

Meetings will be the 1st Tuesday evening of February, June and October, unless that date falls on a holiday. Meetings start at 7pm with a social hour preceding them. Notice of the date, time and location will be announced via email to Members along with being announced on the website [100wwcchelsea.org/](http://100wwcchelsea.org/) and our facebook page [www.facebook.com/100WWCChelsea](http://www.facebook.com/100WWCChelsea) - which we encourage you to Like and Follow.

We expect most Impact Award meetings to be held in and around Chelsea due to the fact it has easy access from the highway and is more centrally located between Stockbridge to the north, Manchester south, Dexter east and Grass Lake west.

We do offer a virtual option using Zoom. But we highly encourage in-person attendance. It's a fun and rewarding time at each meeting! Either way, please attend as, along with selecting an Impact Award recipient, you learn about two other nonprofits doing work for our communities.

### **Will there be food and drink at the meeting?**

The meeting timeline is very tight therefore it's not a sit-down meal. However a meeting may be preceded by an optional networking social hour where we hope to have appetizers and beverages.

### **What happens at meetings?**

The three nonprofit organizations that were randomly selected in advance will make a short presentation. Members have time allotted to ask questions. Then each Member (or Member Team) votes for one. The nonprofit organization receiving the majority of votes will receive the Impact Award. Donation instructions are provided and we encourage you to make your donation that evening.

During voting, you will hear back from the Impact Award recipient from the prior meeting, discussing progress on using our collective donations.

And by the way, if you came to the preceding social hour, we may have been offering a little game that could result in you winning a little prize given out after the meeting!

### **What if I can't come to a meeting in person?**

We currently offer the ability to join via zoom. But please, do attend if you can. It's great fun!

## **Selecting Nonprofits to do a Presentation**

### **How is it determined which nonprofit organizations speak at an Impact Award meeting?**

Three nonprofit organizations are selected in a random drawing prior to the Impact Award Meeting. Members will be notified of the selected nonprofit organizations a week or two prior to the Meeting.

A nonprofit that presented at the last Impact Award Meeting cannot be selected to present at the upcoming Meeting.

The random drawing pool will not include nonprofits that have presented at a prior Impact Award Meeting when there are nonprofits that have never presented to the Membership. This makes it more fair for the nonprofits, giving them all the chance to be heard. This is also more engaging to our membership to hear from different nonprofits.

### **Once nominated, are nonprofits forever eligible to be selected to present at an Impact Award meeting?**

No. They are eligible for six Impact Award meetings, that is 2 years. If they receive an Impact Award, they are no longer eligible for the remaining part of those 2 years.

### **Then can a nonprofit organization be renominated?**

Yes they can be re-nominated. If they did not receive an Impact Award then the waiting time for renomination is 2 years after their original 2-year eligibility ends. If they did receive an Impact Award then the waiting time is 5 years from when they received that Impact Award.

## **Voting**

### **How do I vote for a nonprofit organization at a meeting?**

When you check in at the registration table, along with your name tag you will be provided a ballot. If you are a Member Team only one Member will be given a ballot.

### **Can I vote in advance?**

It is important to hear each of the three stories before making your decision. We highly discourage this but will allow it when the Member has extenuating circumstances.

### **Can I buy two votes if I agree to a donation commitment of \$600?**

No. This giving circle wants all Members to have equal say when it comes to determining which nonprofit organization receives the Impact Award. Though that being said, if you want to donate more, feel free to do so.

### **Is my vote confidential?**

Certain volunteers will be aware of who voted for whom. The purpose of this is to verify that each Member voted only once. There is no publication of ballot results.

### **What if there is a tie vote?**

In the event of a tie, the Members/Member Teams will re-vote on the nonprofit organizations that were tied.

### **How is voting done when the Member is attending the meeting virtually?**

We use Zoom to run hybrid meetings. Zoom has the functionality to do a poll, which will allow the Members to cast their vote. But do come in person if you can - it's fun!

### **Will I learn enough about the nonprofit organization to feel comfortable voting?**

The nonprofit is given guidance prior to the meeting about what to speak on. For example, be specific about what work they do in the Chelsea Area and how they plan to use our donations. But in the end, the nonprofit organization decides on the content of the presentation.

Members are given the chance to ask questions, both after each presentation and then again after all presentations are complete.

We give you the opportunity to research the nonprofit organizations in advance of the meeting. About a week before the meeting we email Members with the names of the three nonprofit organizations selected along with their mission statement and a link to their website if they have one. This is also announced on our Facebook page.



## **My Donation**

### **Will I write the check to the nonprofit organization or to 100 Women Who Care - Chelsea Area?**

Donations are always payable to the nonprofit organization. Donation instructions are provided and emailed the following day. We encourage Members to make their donation at the meeting itself, either by check or online (if the nonprofit has that capability).

### **Will I get a receipt that I can use for a tax deduction?**

No. The IRS does not require proof for a \$100 donation therefore we encourage the nonprofits to not send their written acknowledgement because that tends to put your name in “their system” which then may lead to you receiving donation solicitations, which they have agreed not to do.

### **What if I want to donate more than \$100?**

Yes. One of our volunteers may double check with you, to make sure it was your intent.

### **I don't use checks. Can I pay with cash, credit card or some other electronic payment type?**

Cash is an alternative but highly discouraged. If cash is used, a receipt can be provided at the meeting if requested.

The nonprofit organization may have an online donation portal on their website which could include credit cards and/or electronic pay systems (ex venmo). But do not count on this being an option!

### **Do I have to make the \$100 donation if I did not vote for the nonprofit organization?**

Yes. All Members agree to the donation commitment no matter which nonprofit organization receives the Impact Award.

### **If I miss a meeting am I still committed to the \$100 donation even though I didn't vote?**

Yes. If you are unable to make your donation timely (within in 7 days) because for example, you're on vacation or plan a hospital stay, please contact [info@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:info@100wwcchelsea.org) to notify us and make arrangements.

### **What if I moved, am I still committed to the \$100 donation?**

Yes. If you wish to leave the membership, please let us know otherwise our volunteers will be contacting you to obtain the donation. Please email [members@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:members@100wwcchelsea.org) to let us know in advance. Or respond promptly to the volunteer that attempts to contact you to determine where your donation is.

### **What if I'm attending the meeting virtually or I forget my checkbook - how do I pay?**

Donation instructions will be emailed to all Members within a couple days. It is expected that your \$100 donation will be received no later than 7 days after the meeting. If writing a check, you are instructed to send to a PO Box. If making the donation using the nonprofit's donation portal, forward the confirmation email to [info@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:info@100wwcchelsea.org). Never mail/deliver/give your donation to the nonprofit! We track incoming donations to know that a Member has paid.

### **What happens if I don't make a donation?**

We hope that doesn't happen! But if it does, a volunteer will make attempts to contact you (via email, calls and/or text). If you intend to drop out of the membership, please respond so we know.

The Steering Committee has the option to terminate a membership when a Member fails to meet their donation commitment.

## **Volunteer to Help and/or Sponsor**

### **Can I do anything to help run these Impact Award meetings?**

Absolutely!

You can volunteer to help at meetings or in the background. Email [info@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:info@100wwcchelsea.org) or give your name and contact info to any of our volunteers. We'll contact you to talk about what your interests are and what our current needs are.

If you want to help financially, we have a sponsorship program where businesses or an individual can become a sponsor. Email [info@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:info@100wwcchelsea.org) or give your name and contact info to any of our volunteers. We'll contact you about how sponsorships work. Sponsorship fees help with refreshments at meetings, supplies for running this giving circle, venue costs, etc. The volunteers that make this giving circle happen receive no compensation of any kind.

## **Have Other Questions?**

Email [info@100wwcchelsea.org](mailto:info@100wwcchelsea.org).

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