

Carole Garibaldi Rogers Bio February 2024



Carole Garibaldi Rogers has been, by profession, a journalist and oral historian. She has published numerous articles and essays in national newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Times*. She has written eight books, all of which were commercially published.

Running alongside those writing assignments and the activities of raising two sons has long been a commitment to serving her local community. Carole and Leo moved to Morristown in 1972. While their boys were still toddlers, she volunteered at the Voluntary Action Center and wrote a column for local newspapers to recruit other volunteers. In the 1980s, in the days before the internet, she created a nonprofit called Pro Bono: Volunteers in Public Relations, which gathered women and men with public relations skills and matched their services with Morris County nonprofits that needed such assistance.

She remained involved in different community organizations over the years, including serving on a grants committee at the Community Foundation of New Jersey. In 2012, sensing a need for a new model of philanthropy for women, she started Impact 100 Garden State. The concept behind an Impact 100 organization is simple. One hundred women, each of whom commits \$1,000 annually, pool their funds and provide transformational \$100,000 grants to local nonprofits. Impact 100 Garden State started with six members—Carole and five stalwart friends. In their first year they grew to 135 members and awarded one grant of \$135,000. Last year Impact 100 Garden State had 375 members and gave \$375,000 in grants to local organizations.

In their ten-year history, the women have awarded more than \$3,000,000 in grants to 64 New Jersey nonprofits. And, thanks to their example, there are now four additional Impact 100 organizations in the state. Carole stepped down from the Leadership Team in 2018, but remains an active member, searching for new members, serving on the DEI committee, and cheering on the current team.

She has also embarked on a new venture. Together with two friends from Impact 100, Kathy Teti and Lisa Firkser, she has started another new nonprofit—SparkNJ-- which raises funds to award unrestricted grants to community organizations whose leadership identifies as Black. SparkNJ, which is now in its third giving cycle, has a unique process that does not require grant applications. It relies instead on Nominators with deep roots in their communities to bring forward nonprofits they believe are deserving of SparkNJ funding.

In its first two years, SparkNJ awarded grants to 13 Black-led nonprofits in Morris, Passaic, Essex and Union counties and looks forward to increasing the number of organizations it can fund in 2024.

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