Let's get to know Jenna Suleman

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Sussex County, Delaware. It was the lower, slower part of the state. We were a DuPont town; a mixture of industrial and agriculture. I was the oldest of four children and my father was the town doctor. From my earliest years I recall being philanthropically driven. A lot of it was guided by my mother and her teachings to give back to the community. I recall volunteering as a candy striper in the local hospital, while spending time in the nursing homes. I mentored children, through reading programs and academic mentorships. I painted murals in schools and community centers. I even recall working with the local community pools and the Boys and Girls Club teaching children how to swim.

Where did you go to school? I went to Johnson & Wales University in Providence RI for a business degree. They gave me a pretty hefty scholarship based on a combination of my academics and performance on a national level with the BPA and DECA organizations. I earned my bachelors in three years. My only regret is that while I attended one of the best schools in the country for culinary, I never took a cooking class, and I don't know how to cook.

Tell us about your family: My husband was born on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro in Arusha Tanzania. He finished his schooling in the UK and built his career in NYC. He now works in Private Equity and works closely with Elephant Conservation and Ovarian Cancer Research. Our older son is 11 and has a passion for theater, art and animals. You'll likely find him on the stage at Riverside Theater and volunteering with rescues and animal shelters. Our youngest is 10 and loves soccer, tennis and Anime. He has found great friends through IRSA and the Boulevard. We have only been in Vero a short time but really love the community.

How did I meet my husband: I met my husband when he stepped on my foot. After I chastised him for his clumsiness, he jokingly told me that maybe I shouldn't have such big feet. I wouldn't say stepping on my foot was love at first sight, but almost twenty years later he's still stepping on my feet.

Tell us about your career and what has been the highlight: Since leaving university, I have been working in finance in NYC and Miami. It was highly competitive and wasn't always easy. Even to the point that the maternity policy was nonexistent. Despite the challenges I faced, I recall a few years ago sitting in my office, at some obscenely high floor overlooking the Biscayne Bay. There were a few plaques of accolades on the wall, and I was performing in the top 10% of my peers. It was at that moment in time I realized I was a confident, capable, independent woman who pursued her own ambitions. I was a Girl Boss. That made me smile.

What is one food you cannot live without? I am a vegetarian. I eat a lot of lentils, legumes and beans. I love Brussels sprouts. But the real game changer in food for me is the evolution in plant-based food. I feel like I cannot live without the Impossible products and Beyond Meat offerings.

What is a fun fact about you not many people know? I am a die hard for hot food. I'm talking Carolina Reaper Bhut Jolokia hot. I grow my own hot peppers and make my own hot sauces. Sometimes I even carry a jar around with me.

What are your favorite hobbies: I am a show tune junkie and love a good musical. A few times a year I'll introduce new musicals to the children. One of my favorite memories is watching the whole family singing Tevye's Dream with theatrics and all! I also really enjoy gardening. I've tried growing lots of fruits and vegetables. I particularly enjoyed watching the process of pineapple, broccoli and bananas. Nothing is more rewarding then growing an edible garden from seed.

Why did you join impact? I joined Impact 100 because I connected deeply with the mission. Impact 100 is the original go fund me. It's crowd funding at its simplest. Like-minded intelligent women come together to collectively make a difference in the community. Sign me up!