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Philanthropic Group Chooses Environment as First Focus Area

Grants Workshop for Interested Nonprofits on February 27

CINCINNATI, OH. – January 29, 2008 – Social Ventures Partners, a model of philanthropy introduced to the Greater Cincinnati region in August 2007, has adopted the environment for its first focus area for grantmaking. Other focus areas for grantmaking will be added as the partnership grows.

Social Venture Partners (SVP) is an engaged giving model that brings together accomplished individuals who pool modest funds with professional and personal talents to focus their efforts and dollars on causes of mutual interest. Fourteen partner households studied several areas of interest and in a lively, democratic, caucus-style deliberation decided as a group to focus its first efforts on improving the regional environment.

"We are defining environment very broadly," said Garen Wisner, co-chair of SVP Cincinnati. He said environment could range from water, air and land issues, as well as conservation, recycling, the outdoors and other quality of life issues."

"A passion point that coalesced our group was the idea that we live here and want to make it the best place it can be," said Marcy Wydman, co-chair of SVP Cincinnati. "The environment is a compelling issue not just nationally, but locally too. Change starts at home."

SVP will host a workshop for interested and qualified nonprofits at 9-10:30am on February 27th at InterAct for Change, 3805 Edwards Road, Suite 500 in Norwood. Non-profits interested in attending the workshop or learning more are invited to contact partners@svpcincinnati.org.

SVP is developing a competitive grantmaking process that includes a request for proposals this spring. "We plan an aggressive solicitation and outreach program to generate the best ideas for our inaugural grant to be awarded in June 2008," said Bob Walker, chair of the Grants Committee. "By partnering with SVP, the nonprofit receives more than money. We are committed for the long haul—it's an intense relationship as strategic partners, working together to build capacity and infrastructure over a 3-5 year period."

About SVP

Using a "hands on" approach, SVP combines the power of business with the passion of philanthropy. People who join SVP are called partners. Partners bring their collective expertise, financial resources, professional skills, life experience and creativity to work in partnership with area nonprofits and their leaders. By pooling resources, partners produce synergistic results while learning to be better philanthropists.

SVP welcomes new partners to join at any time. Prospective partners are invited to

attend casual monthly informational meetings called "SVP Lowdowns" to learn more about SVP's model of philanthropy. A calendar of events is located on SVP's website at www.svpcincinnati.org.

SVP Cincinnati is one of 26 cities affiliated with SVP International, based in Seattle. SVP's overarching goals are to find solutions to some of society's most intractable problems and to create a better community and world. SVP Cincinnati operates as a program of InterAct for Change and covers a 20-county area in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.



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