



## The SVP Model Invest. Engage. Advance.

### Purpose of Social Venture Partners International

- Enable and catalyze a federation of SVPs with a [shared mission](#) and [shared principles](#)
- Support the mission of local SVPs
- Develop and maintain the integrity of the Social Venture Partners (SVP) model and brand
- Build a highly effective network for knowledge and best practices sharing

### Shared Mission

SVPs seek to catalyze significant, long-term positive social change in their communities by:

- Educating individuals to be well informed, effective, and engaged philanthropists;
- Investing time, expertise, and money in innovative nonprofits to collaboratively strengthen their organizations.

### Shared Principles and Practices

**Engaged Venture Philanthropy.** SVPs invest time, expertise and money in nonprofits. They seek collaborative relationships with nonprofits that last for at least three years.

**Entrepreneurial Spirit.** SVPs use innovative approaches to achieve leveraged results in their nonprofit partnerships and communities. They delegate decisions, resources, and authority to those closest to the work.

**Philanthropic Education.** SVP Partners educate themselves and become informed, effective, lifetime philanthropists. Ongoing individual philanthropy is catalyzed through hands-on experience and education.

**Community & Collaborative Action.** SVPs believe in the power of collective, self-organized effort. They encourage and maintain highly participatory, Partner-driven organizations that use non-hierarchical, low-overhead communications and operating practices. SVPs support an open exchange of knowledge and lessons learned, and avoid partisan, religious or political activities.

**Mutual Respect.** SVPs respect the expertise of community nonprofit organizations. They form close working relationships with organizations where the SVP mutually vests in the nonprofit's success.

**Accountability & Results.** SVPs are mutually accountable to each other, their Investees and the community. They achieve and document measurable results, both in their own work and through their nonprofit partnerships.

## The SVP Model

The SVP model brings together worlds that typically do not overlap: grant making, volunteerism, nonprofit capacity building, and philanthropic education. Every SVP is a network of people who believe that they can have a positive impact on their communities and organizations who are using innovative strategies to address complex community issues.

SVP Partners are individuals who want to make a meaningful contribution to nonprofit organizations—through sharing their skills, time, and financial resources. SVP Investees are nonprofit organizations that seek new resources and approaches for addressing a variety of issues, including environmental protection, youth development, and education.

The first half of the SVP model is investment that builds the long-term capacity of organizations, rather than short-term projects or programs. Capacity building investments include cash grants, skilled volunteers, professional consultants, leadership development and management training opportunities. SVP Partners make an annual contribution of at least \$5,000, and make decisions about how to share their collective investment. Partners provide volunteer support in areas including marketing, finance, technology, strategic planning, and human resources management. Capacity building investments contribute to increased organizational effectiveness and impact.

The other half of the SVP model is the mobilization of a community of lifelong, informed, and inspired philanthropists. Through engagement with Investees, connections with SVP Partners, and participation in education events, Partners are inspired to reinvest and make new investments in organizations associated with SVP as well as more broadly.

This graphic shows how the two elements of the model continuously reinforce each other.

