



## Sustainability: What it Means and Why it Matters

SVP Boulder County is an organization that evolves to help define the frontiers of nonprofit leadership and capacity. We've come to be known for our **quality**, our ability to **build community**, and the **impact** we deliver in our region.

SVP Boulder County Partner members, Board, and staff are inspired and committed to carrying out the organization's long-term vision and mission. Both entrepreneurial and rigorous, we aim to define the gold standard in nonprofit capacity building.

We are guided by our values\* and work on maintaining a strong organizational identity to be successful in this endeavor. Buttressed by clearly defined goals, plans, and measures, at our core SVP is innovative and flexible. Since we are only as strong as our people, our community of Partner members, nonprofits, donors and friends need clear, personally-meaningful pathways (whether time, talent, or financial) to engage with and in SVP Boulder County in transformative ways.

As trustees of this legacy, we want to do everything within our power to ensure that our contributions to growing both a strong nonprofit sector and a philanthropic ethos continue. And, that we meet the needs of today while embracing the needs of the future.

### Bringing it Home

SVP believes strong nonprofits deliver better results and has grown to offer a range of services including training, leadership development, and consulting support. Nonprofits can choose from our menu of offerings a la carte, opting for whatever mix best suits their current capacity needs based on their stage of development. No matter their age, nonprofits in start-up, growth, mature, or turnaround stages are all able to thoughtfully address challenges that typify that stage and find more sustainability through our programs.

SVP Boulder County is no different. Early in its life as an independent nonprofit (*501(c)3 status received in 2014*), **SVP is in growth stage and is working to source adequate financial resources, diversify its funding, and set aside cash reserves. In order to become a sustainable organization, we've prioritized living our values and utilizing the practices we teach.**

Growing our services to better meet client needs has already resulted in better outcomes for SVP. We're serving more nonprofits than ever through our expanded menu of offerings, providing Partner members with additional deep and broad engagement opportunities, and better meeting our own organizational mission. We've seen that when we're successful in building knowledge, community and services that aid our various audiences, SVP itself benefits and sees an increase in new members, donations, as well as allies and community coalitions reaching out.

## Agreements

We – SVP Boulder County’s Board, Partner members, and staff – all have a role to play in growing the knowledge, community and resources of SVP. We understand the importance of organizational sustainability and commit to securing both financial and people resources. We will:

- Make decisions thoughtfully, conducting due diligence and applying rigor to our strategic endeavors.
- Take risks to innovate and invest in SVP’s growth as we counsel other nonprofit to do.
- Recognize that a healthy organization requires the integration of strategy, programs, people and dollars (including an operating reserve) to build an organization that can thrive now, and in the future.
- Pledge to actively participate in procuring financial resources and prioritizing this activity as vital to the viability and impact of SVP.
- Grow, not for the sake of growth, but to meet our vision and in response to future needs and opportunities to serve our community.
- Ensure staff are properly resourced, rested, and compensated to keep invested in our mission, and serve as the organization’s scaffolding.

### **\*Values**

To make a deep and sustainable positive impact on our Boulder County community, SVP believes in:

- 1) Engaging and Learning – Developing the impact of our Partner members and the broader Boulder County community through active engagement and education in nonprofit capacity building;
- 2) Leveraging and Strengthening – Leveraging the combination of human and financial capital to strengthen the internal and external capacity of local nonprofits to pursue their missions and create a positive ripple effect throughout our community;
- 3) Connecting and Collaborating – Connecting and collaborating with individuals, nonprofits, businesses and community leaders to strengthen Boulder County resources;
- 4) Inclusivity and Respect – Fostering inclusivity and respect for all community members to help build the foundation of community solutions and sustainability;
- 5) Risking and Growing – Risking change and failure in the pursuit of mission as the path to growth and success.