

FAQs

Why give to Social Venture Partners Minnesota? Why not give directly to a nonprofit?

We exist to build thriving, just and sustainable communities where everyone has the opportunity to succeed – especially underserved teens. By pooling our funds, we make a bigger impact on under-resourced youth through the promising nonprofits that serve them. We generally grant \$75,000 to a nonprofit over three years (dependent on annual grant renewal). Plus, we amplify the investment by devoting our Partners' skill-based talents to building the capacity of our Investees. For every \$1 in grant funds, we provide 4x that value in professional and technical skills!

What is an Investee?

An Investee is a Twin Cities-based nonprofit that SVP Partners have selected to invest in over a three-year period of growth and capacity building. Investees go through a rigorous vetting process to receive the multi-year grants and free skill-based expertise from SVP Partners. Most Investees agree that SVP is a game-changer for their organization's impact in the community.

What is SVP's Impact in Minnesota?

In SVP Minnesota's 18-year history, 60+ Investees have been impacted with grants and pro bono consulting services to build capacity and scale. A recent proprietary study illustrates how SVP turbo-charges nonprofits: during the three years we work with a social enterprise, on average, they more than double their revenue and the number of teens impacted after three years of engagement with SVP. Now that's undeniable impact! We've helped to greatly accelerate some of the leading nonprofits in the Twin Cities that serve teens including College Possible, Full Cycle, Genesys Works, Minnesota Urban Debate League, World Savvy, Spark-Y and Appetite For Change. The following Investees are currently in our portfolio: Connections to Independence, Cookie Cart, Elpis Enterprises, New Vision Foundation, Roots for the Home Team, Sisterhood Boutique, The BrandLab.

What is a Partner?

Individual Partners are interested in working with other social-minded people to make a difference for underserved teens through a model of engaged philanthropy – an investment of money and skill-based volunteering. Partners are individuals or couple households who become SVP donors. **Partner** - minimum annual contribution of \$6,000 and Leadership Circle is annual minimum of \$10,000; **Rising Leader** (under age 35) - minimum annual contribution of \$1,000.

Corporate Partners are businesses wanting to plug in to nonprofits creating social change and seeking to build capacity. Designated employees are eligible to participate in all SVP activities and events and work with our Investees. **Corporate Partners** - minimum annual contribution of \$15,000 for up to five staff.

(Over please)

Philanthropic Partners are businesses that would like to directly support a nonprofit organization of their choice. SVP facilitates selection of the organization and provides training, tools and processes to make the relationship a success. Designated employees are eligible to participate in all SVP activities and events. Typically, 6-10 staff get engaged. **Philanthropic Partners:** minimum annual contribution of \$35,000 (\$25,000 pass through to Investee as a grant).

I am too busy to donate my time. Can I still become a Partner?

Yes! While we hope you will explore our engaged philanthropy model by donating your professional skills, time and talent, we gratefully appreciate whatever commitment you are able to make to support our mission. Our recommendation is that at a minimum, you attend two events each year. And of course, we accept financial support from anyone who believes in the work we do.

How does SVP connect me to other Partners and to investees?

SVP connects Partners to other social-minded individuals through educational opportunities (i.e., workshops and panel discussions), Partner events and serving together on committees and teams. We strongly recommend that all new Partners join the Due Diligence Team to vet possible Investees for Pitch Night– this is one of the most insightful experiences new Partners enjoy. While realizing a greater impact with your own giving, you can also learn and grow in understanding of issues facing underserved teens in our community. SVP consulting teams roll up their sleeves and collaborate directly with Investees to define and lead capacity building strategies.

When you become a Partner, in addition to the resources of SVP MN, you have access to the international SVP network of 40+ affiliates in nine countries, as well as the global office in Seattle. As a global network, we share ideas and best practices, access a breadth of expertise and hold insightful conferences and webinars.

I am not sure my skills would be useful to investees.

Our Investees often seek support from SVP in the following areas: strategic planning, financial modeling, leadership development/recruiting, board and volunteer development/governance, business operations/infrastructure, human resources, change management, metrics and program evaluation, mission-vision-values development, fundraising, earned revenue strategies, marketing, and information technology. However, with every Investee comes a unique set of capacity building needs. We take the time to get to know you and your skill set, then find engagement opportunities that best utilize your talents within Investee organizations or for SVP MN.

SVP MN is a 501(c)3 organization and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.