BETTER TOGETHER
AN IMPACT SNAPSHOT
What This Looks Like

Lisa Chin joined SVP after retiring from Amazon – exhausted and craving something different. She wasn’t sure what, but she knew it involved giving back. So she dove deep at SVP. She attended every workshop, accepted every volunteer opportunity, and with her husband Nigel, developed a giving strategy, which were – as Lisa puts it – “words that didn’t exist in our vocabulary.”

Lisa also began searching for a career that would make a positive impact in her community, drawing upon her SVP experience to guide her. “The strength of what I learned at SVP was a huge part of my resume,” says Lisa. “It’s better than getting a master’s in nonprofit management.” Today, Lisa is the Executive Director of Year Up Seattle – helping urban young adults reach their full professional potential.

Lisa’s story is one among many. SVP has …

- **450+ Partners** pooling money, time and talent for greater impact
- **50+ Partners** serving on boards and in leadership roles at nonprofits
- **Dozens of families and teen philanthropists** engaged in service projects and grant making
- **40+ education sessions** annually on philanthropy and related topics
- **60+ volunteer opportunities** with nonprofits annually, ranging from technology to human resources to financial management projects

**INDIVIDUAL IMPACT: Amplified Giving**

People who join Social Venture Partners want to give in a way that makes the greatest impact possible – on them, on nonprofits, on our community. This takes many forms, and in a biennial survey we track changes in our Partners’ financial giving and community engagement. Since joining SVP …

- Partners are giving more strategically across the board (see graph below)
- 47% increased their annual giving, and 21% have more than doubled their giving
- 63% are more involved in their community (e.g. volunteering, attending public meetings)
- More than 80% say SVP was a factor in these changes
Time and time again, we see how the SVP relationship goes well beyond the funding and the projects.

Wendy Church
Executive Director, Facing the Future

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT: Stronger Nonprofits
It’s not sexy, but things like sound financial systems, strong board leadership, and up-to-date technology can take an organization’s impact – on kids, families, or the environment – to the next level. That’s why SVP works with nonprofits to help strengthen them from the inside out. Since 1997 we have …

- Partnered with 70+ local nonprofits
- Given more than $12.5 million in grants
- Provided tens of thousands of volunteer hours from local professionals (including 4,200 hours from last year alone)

To help assess the strength of our Investees we ask key staff and board members to rate their capacity in 10 areas on a scale from 1–4. They complete this process at the start and towards the end of their five year relationship with SVP. Below are the 2011 averaged results from three graduating Investees.

What This Looks Like
Facing the Future designs curriculums that engage students in real life problem-solving around global sustainability, making it part of their everyday thought process. In their five year partnership with SVP, Facing the Future worked with volunteers and consultants on more than 40 projects. They redesigned their Web site, which immediately increased curriculum downloads by 150 percent. They diversified and stabilized their funding stream, which now includes 20 percent from earned income. Plus, they developed a Theory of Change and success metrics, so they could continue to improve their work.

During that time Facing the Future grew from five to eight staff members, and increased their curriculum products 7-fold. Most importantly, they increased the number of students they reach from 100,000 to more than 1.5 million annually – students who are now better equipped to build a sustainable future.

This is one story among many. SVP currently supports 17 nonprofits that …

- Serve more than 50,000 kids through diverse programs, from one-on-one mentorship to an array of wrap-around services that help keep kids in school
- Protect our environment through conservation, restoration, advocacy, and civic engagement
- Advocate for better policies that support strong early learning and K-12 education systems

“Time and time again, we see how the SVP relationship goes well beyond the funding and the projects.”

Wendy Church
Executive Director, Facing the Future
NOT JUST IN SEATTLE, AND EVEN BEYOND THE REACH OF SVP.

SYSTEM IMPACT: A Thriving Social Sector
So far we’ve talked about SVP’s impact on individuals and organizations, but there is a third, less tangible layer to our work. It involves collaboration among funders and capacity builders who are striving to strengthen the social sector as a whole.

This starts with the international SVP network that we are part of. A network that:
- Now has **2,000+ Partners** in SVP affiliates across North America and Japan
- Currently supports **136 Investees** network-wide
- Has given more than **$40 million** to nonprofits since 1997
- Fosters collaborations like the **Mezzanine Fund**, which fills a gap between small and large-scale funders, helping nonprofits with great models replicate and reach next level funding opportunities.

What This Looks Like
SVP Seattle’s role in strengthening the social sector is still evolving, but a few examples include:

**The Statewide Capacity Collaborative:** SVP is convening and participating in this group of nine funders committed to strengthening nonprofits throughout Washington State. Current initiatives focus on increasing nonprofit access to quality resources, particularly in rural and under served areas.

**Statewide Early Learning Network Weaving:** SVP conducted a survey of all the early learning players in Seattle, identifying the hubs and ways to weave complementary efforts together for greater impact.

**Increased Participation in National Forums:** SVP has had increased opportunities to speak and present in national forums focused on systems change, such as Stanford’s Collective Impact Conference and the upcoming Independent Sector Conference.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS SEATTLE AT: WWW.SVPSEATTLE.ORG