If you want beautiful trees, you have to have rich soil. If you want to have effective, sustainable programs, you have to have a strong, stable organizational infrastructure supporting it. It’s as simple, and beautiful, as that.
Over the last year, SVP provided local nonprofits with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Time (1,830 hours at $100 per hour*)</td>
<td>$183,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVP Direct Grants</td>
<td>$876,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid Consulting to support Investee Projects</td>
<td>$96,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,115,339</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The value was calculated using a market-based uniform rate of $100 per hour. Although market rates vary according to type of project, SVP chose a single rate at the low end of the range ($75 - $150) to maximize ease and reliability of data collected.
IT’S THE SOIL, NOT JUST THE TREES

Last September, I went camping with my 10-year old, Sam. As we laid in our two-person tent, side by side, we looked up through the mesh roof of our tent. It was a clear, crisp evening with a full moon. The stars were brilliant, but the real “stars” were the huge, tall, majestic pines that surrounded us, watching over us wherever we hiked.

Before we drove away at the end of the weekend, I took one last look upward to savor the sight. But as I walked back to the car, over the pine needles and fallen branches, I realized how beautiful – rich, soft, fertile – the soil under my feet was.

We all look up and rave about the superstars of the forest, but how often do we celebrate the foundation of their beauty, that soil underfoot?

Being a philanthropy guy, that symbiosis between the soil and the trees conjures the relationship between a strong nonprofit organization and the programs it delivers. We all see the program - reading to kids, keeping our rivers clean, administering the vaccines, etc.

But what fewer philanthropists notice is the foundation for that program – the organization itself, its infrastructure, the technology, human resources, and financial management systems, the board, the support staff. We notice the trees, but not the soil; we want to give to the program, but not the organization. And yet one can’t exist without the other.

The program will ultimately be no stronger than the organization underpinning its delivery. The trees will go no higher and be no more majestic than the soil it grows its roots into.

This is why we do what we do at SVP.

In this report, you’ll meet the nonprofits we fund and partner with (our Investees). We provide each organization with 3-5 years of general operating support (up to $250k). We also work with them to identify skilled volunteers and paid consultants who can help strengthen all those behind the scenes systems that create the “soil” for their programs – allowing them to take their work to the next level.

This not only benefits the nonprofits, it also gives our volunteers (SVP Partners) an opportunity to apply their unique professional skills to a cause they’re passionate about – enabling each to have a greater impact than they could alone.

Thank you to SVP’s network of Partners who have contributed both time and dollars to enrich the nonprofit soil, and to the organizations that are tackling some of our community’s toughest problems. We are honored to be your accomplice.

- Paul Shoemaker, SVP Executive Connector
Mission
Boyer Children’s Clinic improves the quality of life of children with neuromuscular disorders or other developmental delays by providing the best solutions for each child and family.

Impact
Boyer Children’s Clinic serves children from birth to teen, with the majority being age four and younger. The children served at Boyer Children’s Clinic represent a wide diversity in culture and race. Families are representative of the diversity present in the Puget Sound region. This past year Boyer directly served 675 children and their families. 98% of those measured showed improvement in motor development and 42% of children exiting Boyer’s programs do not require further special education and therapy — this is 15% higher than the county average.

"SVP’s support in our Marketing and Communications efforts has been nothing short of revolutionary for the agency. We have always worked tirelessly to communicate Boyer’s mission and impact to our community of supporters. With SVP’s help (partners and community volunteers), we are more efficient and more effective. We have moved from relying nearly exclusively on printed communications to developing electronic pieces that help us to segment our communications and reach out to many of our constituents in a more effective medium."

— Mike Stewart, Executive Director

SVP’s Support

• **Information Technology:** Expanded SharePoint site to increase staff efficiency of internal communications (Partner Kevin Phaup)
• **Marketing & Communications:** Rebranding volunteers - conducted a comprehensive assessment of brand, including the look and feel, messaging and logos (Partner Randy Wooten and Volunteer Lisa Scattaregia)
• **Leadership Development:** Peer learning groups and strategic team building for Executive Director and Development Director (Paid Consultant)
• **Board Leadership:** Board matching (Partner Mike Cadigan)
Mission
College Access Now is an innovative program dedicated to making college possible for talented, motivated, and economically disadvantaged high school students.

Impact
College Access Now (CAN) currently serves more than 200 students in three Seattle Public Schools, of which 92% are the first generation of their families to attend college. Through a variety of services CAN helps students perceive themselves as “college material,” navigate the college application process, secure funding for college, and persevere in their studies. And it works. One hundred percent of CAN students are accepted into college, and last year’s seniors were offered more than $1.5M in independent and institutional grants.

SVP’s Support
SVP just kicked off its relationship with CAN in the Fall of 2011. Demand for their services is high, and they hope to serve 570 students in 10 schools by 2015. We look forward to digging into projects that will help CAN reach their expansion goals!

// College Access Now serves low-income students in a critical, life-changing manner. They are bursting at the seams with possibility, and the thing holding them back is what SVP does best: building organizational capacity. //

—Linda Hendrickson
Out of School Time Grant Committee
The Non-Profit Executive Leadership Institute was extremely valuable to me and came at a perfect time. The sponsorship from Social Venture Partners allowed me to attend this week long institute that would not have been an option without that financial support. I felt that as a result of my participation, I am more grounded and capable of successfully leading this organization.

—Susan Richards, Executive Director

Mission
To provide each Communities in Schools affiliate program with personalized quality customer service to help them serve children in their community, resulting in a strong state-wide network.

Impact
In addition to helping communities implement the Communities In Schools model, the Washington State Office supports its network of 12 affiliate programs by providing timely, personalized service through field support, communications/marketing and partnership and resource development.

Twelve CIS affiliates provide students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. They do this by providing individualized services to 3,524 students and school wide services to 46,849 students — with 85% of secondary school students staying in school and being promoted to the next grade. Of students referred for specific issues: 84% improved behavior, 66% improved attendance and 71% improved academic performance.

SVP’S Support
- **Program Outcomes & Evaluation:** In partnership with CIS National and local CIS affiliates, working to clarify appropriate state office outcomes and indicators (Paid Consultant)
- **Leadership Development:** ED attended Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute with assistance from SVP funds. Board Chair and develop director participate in monthly peer learning cohorts (Paid Consultant)
- **Fund Development:** Assessed, evaluated and refined state office resource development activities (Paid Consultant)
- **Information Technology:** Conducted a technology assessment of CIS Washington and provided recommendations to increase staff efficiency and effectiveness (SVP Partners Kevin Phaup and Steve Poore)
Mission
In order to promote success in school and community, Denise Louie Education Center (DLEC) provides quality, multi-cultural early childhood education services to children and their families. DLEC works to respect and preserve each child’s individuality, cultural heritage and home language — promoting personal and social responsibility with integrity and love in a non-sexist, non-violent, and non-racist environment.

Impact
Denise Louie Education Center is a non-profit Head Start program that provides comprehensive early learning and family support services to Seattle’s immigrant and refugee communities from three locations in the Beacon Hill, Rainier Beach, and International District neighborhoods. DLEC’s Early Head Start program will increase the Early Head Start slots available by 55%. They currently work with over 600 parents, 293 Head Start and Early Head Start children from ages 0 to 5, over 30 teachers and help 20 high school teen parents.

“\nWhen we began our partnership with SVP, I was finishing my 13th year as DLEC’s Executive Director ... I feel energized by the support I have through my peers and coaches, am learning new skills and feel newly challenged. I feel like DLEC is on the cusp of something very exciting and I am energized and rededicated to shaping it. \n”

— Janice Deguchi, Executive Director

SVP’s Support
• **Leadership Development:** Coaching and advising for the Executive Director. Development director and board members participated in monthly peer learning cohorts (Paid Consultant and SVP Partners Craig Bruya and Pam Robbins)
• **Human Resources:** Advised staff on establishing performance benchmarks and evaluation (Community Volunteers Carmen D’Arcangelo and Molly Luna)
• **Mission, Vision, Strategy & Planning:** Helped facilitate focus groups of DLEC’s constituents to determine DLEC’s strengths and opportunities for improvement (SVP Partners Kelly Guy and Diane Moore)
• **Fund Development:** Assessed current fundraising efforts, worked with staff and board to develop new plan (Paid Consultant)
Mission

Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) will upgrade over two-thirds of a million low-income and/or African-American, Latino students to the advanced academic level by 2020.

Impact

Many low-income and minority students are missing from our schools’ most rigorous classes, where they could excel given the chance. Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) works to change that by assisting schools and school district leaders to diversify and increase the number of students benefiting from rigorous academic classes like Advance Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB).

In their initial pilot program in South Carolina, EOS tripled the participation of African-American students in AP and IB classes while raising pass rates. In the San Jose Unified School District, EOS nearly doubled district-wide Latino and low-income participation in AP/IB classes and achieved higher pass rates. They are currently working in 3 districts, reaching roughly 3,000 students and 768 teachers.

“SVP has led the country in showing how smart grant makers can provide a combination of capital, know-how, and community connections to catalyze a nonprofit’s effectiveness. We need their skills to achieve our ambitious growth trajectory, and are honored to a part of the SVP portfolio.”

– Reid Saaris, Executive Director

SVP’s Support

SVP just kicked off its relationship with EOS in the Fall of 2011. EOS was selected by SVP’s K-12 Education Grant Committee, whose members were impressed by what they saw. “EOS will be a showcase investment for the SVP partnership,” states Grant Committee Chair, Harvey Rubinstein, “both in the program’s potential for success and impact, and for Partner engagement in significant, important projects.” We look forward to partnering EOS!
Mission
Explorations in Math (EIM) is dedicated to helping elementary students succeed in math. The mission of the organization is to build a sustainable math culture in elementary school communities.

Impact
EIM has three guiding goals: to create confidence and excitement for math in young children, start early in the educational lives of children, and involve the entire school community including teachers, parents and out of school providers. In the past year, EIM has served 1,146 students in 76 math clubs at 27 Puget Sound elementary schools; 4,112 family members at 22 family math nights; 19 teachers and 456 students with Mathematician in Residence programs; and 140 students in Summer Math Camps.

In addition to SVP’s financial support, our Lead Partner has been a valuable part of our growth. Bill Ellis provides ongoing mentorship and business/organizational advice in a caring and respectful manner. He truly believes in our work and seeing the organization grow successfully. The combination of these forms of support is unique to SVP and is truly appreciated.

—Tammie Schacher, Executive Director

SVP’s Support

- **Human Resources**: assisted EIM in outlining annual review process and professional development plan (Community Volunteer Carmen D’Arcangelo)
- **Marketing & Communications**: helped identify steps to successfully launch a branding campaign and outlined a PR road map over that will help maximize short-term opportunities (SVP Partners Megan Smiley and Sarah Daniels)
- **Information Technology**: SharePoint support provided guidance and maintenance on systems (SVP Partner Kevin Phaup)
- **Program Outcomes & Evaluation**: Data/statistical analysis to better understand the impact of EIM programs (SVP Partner Bu Huang)
- **Marketing & Communications**: Guiding EIM through a re-branding process (Paid Consultant)
- **Program Outcomes & Evaluation**: Worked to articulate a theory of change, create a logic model, and develop the necessary assessment tools to measure program success, setting up the organization to launch its strategic planning and rebranding work (Paid Consultant)
Mission
Friends of the Children – King County (Friends-KC) provides long-term mentoring relationships to help our most vulnerable children living in high-risk environments develop the relationships, goals, skills, and resources necessary to thrive.

Impact
Friends-KC serves only the most vulnerable children whose instability renders them outside the bounds of less comprehensive mentoring programs. They currently serve 91 children and to date 97% are promoted to the next grade. Friends-KC’s model also addresses pressing social issues. Last year, 97% Friends of the Children participants avoided the juvenile justice system and 100% avoided teen pregnancies. Harvard Business School Association of Oregon verifies the long-term value of the program, noting every dollar invested in these kids generates greater than six fold in returns.

“We had an outdated donor database, which was installed on one computer in our office, accessible to only one staff person at a time and we were not able to access any technical support or software updates due to the cost. SVP Partner Kevin Phaup provided technical assistance to identify our needs for a new donor database, transferred and managed data in order to help us implement our fundraising strategy and meet our fundraising goals.”

—Kelly Stockman Reid, Executive Director

SVP’s Support
- **Information Technology**: Provided tech support and guidance on systems and new donor database (SVP Partner Kevin Phaup)
- **Board Leadership**: Provided guidance and support as board considers committee structure and roles/responsibilities (SVP Partner Walter Impert)
- **Leadership Development**: Participation in peer learning group for executive director, program director and board (Paid Consultant)
- **Leadership Development**: Provided guidance and tools for ED to strengthen leadership skills (SVP Partner Pam Robbins)
LEAGUE OF EDUCATION VOTERS FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHRIS KORSMO

SVP LEAD PARTNER
JAY LEON

SVP INVESTMENT
$112,500 OVER 3 YEARS
www.educationvoters.org

Mission
The League of Education Voters Foundation (LEVF) is dedicated to engaging ordinary citizens, educators, policymakers, and the media in the effort to provide a quality education for all students in Washington State - from preschool through college.

Impact
LEVF works to create an educational system in which every student has an equal and adequate opportunity to succeed in college, work, and in life. Over the last 2 years, LEVF has worked with a broad coalition of parents, civic and business leaders and legislators to implement comprehensive education reform. Changes include increased transparency in school funding, adopting more effective teaching standards, redefining basic education and expanding the school day to include more math, science and world language studies. The education reform bill passed and LEVF will be working to make sure it’s implemented and funded.

“• The additional support through SVP volunteers, support for specific capacity building and engagement with SVP committees were of immense value to LEVF.”
—Chris Korsmo, Executive Director

SVP’s Support
• Program Outcomes & Evaluation: Worked to develop clear metrics for measuring success and tools for evaluation (Paid Consultant)
• Mission, Vision, Strategy & Planning: Board retreat facilitator (SVP Partner Steve Trautman)
• Leadership Development: Participation in monthly peer learning group for fund development staff (Paid Consultant)
Mission
The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance the landscape from Seattle across the Cascade Mountains to Central Washington, ensuring a long-term balance between people and nature.

Impact
The Greenway connects 1.5 million acres surrounding Interstate 90, including the 15th-largest metropolis in the United States. More than 800,000 acres of land are now publicly owned, from city parks to expansive public forests. Another 90,000 acres are conserved as permanent private forests. In the past 20 years, the Greenway has been a vital source for the community. Their education initiative has taught 32,000 kids in classrooms and taken 21,000 kids on study field trips. Land restoration projects have removed 40 miles of logging roads and planted 675,000 trees. Each year Mountains to Sound Greenway gathers 4,000 volunteers who log roughly 472,000 hours!

I have the blessed fortune through SVP to be mentored by Kari Glover. Kari’s intrinsic appreciation of the centrist leadership style makes her invaluable to me and the Mountains to Sound Greenway. She knows how to invoke me to grow while staying true to who I am and sharpening such skills as delegating, decisiveness and holding high expectations.

—Cynthia Welti, Executive Director

SVP’s Support

- **Leadership Development**: Executive and leadership coaching for key staff: provide guidance, support and perspective for key leadership positions (SVP Partners Kari Glover, Peter Spiro and Diane Moore)

- **Leadership Development**: Helped staff members with presentation skills to help them deliver high quality and engaging presentations to external audiences (Community Volunteer Alpa Dave)

- **Program Outcomes & Evaluation**: Evaluation of the volunteer program -- reviewing and designing tools/surveys (SVP Partner Bu Huang)

- **Fund Development**: Designed and worked with staff and board to launch 20th anniversary campaign (SVP Partner/Paid Consultants Emily Anthony and Julie Edsforth)
Mission
To protect and restore Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits – our living waters, the land and our common future.

Impact
Through key educational programs, key partnerships and restoration projects, People for Puget Sound has accomplished exciting environmental wins — protection of a full mile of unspoiled Maury Island shoreline, protection of 60,000 acres of marine habitat near Protection and Whidbey Islands in two aquatic reserves, protection of 1,200 miles of Puget Sound shoreline and restoration of 48 miles.

“Finding the right Executive Director involved defining the core competencies of a successful executive director at People For Puget Sound, engaging staff and board members and key partners in outreach to identify top talent nationally and communicating with our constituents throughout the transitions. SVP Partners Christine [Martin] and Julie [Edsforth] were instrumental in helping us design the selection process in a way that the Board of Directors “owned” the decision, yet making sure the staff were involved in a meaningful way.”
—Kathy Fletcher (former) /Tom Bancroft, Executive Director

SVP’s Support

- **Human Resources**: Helped assess current organizational structure and provide recommendations on implementation in advance of Executive Director transition (SVP Partner/Paid Christine Martin)
- **Board Development & Governance**: Provided guidance and support to the board as they transitioned Executive Directors (SVP Partner Julie Edsforth)
- **Marketing, PR & Communications**: member/stakeholder market research (SVP Partners Meredith Shank and Melissa Ganus)
- **Board Development & Governance**: Board retreat and individual board membership participation in peer learning groups (Paid Consultant)
- **Leadership Development**: Executive Director, development and finance staff participate in monthly peer learning cohorts (Paid Consultant)
Mission
Powerful Schools reduces the academic achievement gap by creating strong partnerships with public schools to help children thrive. Through literacy, arts, after-school and leadership programs, we ensure all children succeed both in and out of school.

Impact
Powerful Schools serves children who attend high need public elementary schools in Seattle and South King County, their families and the pre-schools feeding into those schools. In the last year, Powerful Schools has reached over 3,500 students with 68% meeting or exceeding reading growth goals for their grade level. Their emphasis on the use of art to encourage critical thinking in all areas contributes to the success of their programs — of participating teachers, 96% reported that arts learning increased overall classroom engagement. Powerful Schools reaches beyond the classroom: their parents have a 90% participation rate in school based activities.

One particular highlight that has led to significant change for Powerful Schools was our message framework development with Erica Mills (consultant)... The results of creating a unified message framework that is shared by board, staff, and key stakeholders is a concise, compelling belief proposition that helps direct the priorities of the Board and Staff. We used the breakfast and auction to test our new message framework to a larger audience... I believe that the strong, consistent message framework played a significant role in our ability to exceed our fundraising goals.

— Tré Maxie, Executive Director

SVP’s Support
• Human Resources: Clarified roles in new organizational structure and identified professional development opportunities (SVP Partner Christine Martin)
• Leadership Development: Participation in peer learning group for fund development staff (Paid Consultant)
• Marketing & Communications: Worked with staff and board to create a marketing plan that aligns with Powerful Schools’ 20th anniversary (Paid Consultant)
• Information Technology: Implementing a Salesforce database and upgrading software systems (SVP Partner Kevin Phaup)
Mission
The mission of Summer Search is to find resilient low-income high school students and inspire them to become responsible and altruistic leaders by providing year-round mentoring, life-changing summer experiences, college advising, and a lasting support network.

Impact
In King County, Summer Search currently serves 130 students with 98% of participants on track to graduate on time. Of graduating students, 96% are going to college and 93% of those graduates will be the first in their families to do so. Summer Search, also a national program, not only affects academic indicators but also changes attitudes. Students have increased coping skills and positive attitudes compared to similar youth not in the program, and have also demonstrated less risky behavior compared to those same students.

Without a doubt, the support we’ve had from SVP these past two years has helped us weather an Executive Director transition, gain visibility in Seattle’s donor community, professionally develop our senior management staff and improve our development planning and strategy. This support enables the staff to deliver a better program to our students and work more effectively with our board and donors.

—Deidre McCormack, Executive Director

SVP’s Support
- **Fund Development**: Supported efforts to more effectively manage and increase individual donors (SVP Partners Emily Anthony and Chris Cooper)
- **Marketing & Communications**: Created messaging framework to hone Summer Search’s message and visibility in Seattle, now being shared with the national office (SVP Partner Samantha Neukom)
- **Mission, Vision, Strategy & Planning**: School selection strategy developed to provide an objective system to evaluate and rate schools to inform growth to additional schools (SVP Partners Christine Enslein, Rosanne Jantzi, Ray Makela)
Thrive strives to communicate and champion the importance of learning that’s occurring between birth and age five. They bring together people, resources, and proven programs and practices to help create the early learning supports, services and system Washington families need. Thrive covers the full spectrum of early learning including: all ages (pre-natal to five), different care settings (formal and informal), and the full child perspective (cognitive as well as social and emotional development.) To do this, Thrive deepens parent and caregiver knowledge of child development, builds a coordinated home visiting system to serve at-risk families and builds partnerships and drive mobilization.

Impact

In the past year, with SVP’s support and encouragement, Thrive has begun strengthening and focusing work with early learning coalitions and other local early learning partnerships. This work integrates several objectives of our SVP Work Plan and advances Thrive’s role of helping weave together the many public and private strands that make up our early learning landscape in order to achieve a more effective, coordinated system of supports for children and families.

—Nina Auerbach, Executive Director

SVP’s Support

- **Mission, Vision, Strategy & Planning:** Created a pricing framework for the “Love, Talk, Play” curriculum that would allow them to distribute it to a wider audience and cover costs (SVP Partners Mike Cadigan and Monika Steen)
- **Program Outcomes & Evaluation:** Reviewed current programs and revised, developed and implemented evaluation tools and organizational dashboard (Paid Consultant)
- **Human Resources:** Developed and implemented process for syncing professional development plans with performance reviews (SVP Partner Virginia Klamon and Paid Consultants)
- **Program Outcomes & Evaluation:** Network strengthening: worked in partnership to develop plan for strengthening the statewide early learning coalition (Paid Consultant)
Mission
To empower the Vietnamese community to succeed while bridging, preserving, and promoting cultural heritage.

Impact
Vietnamese Friendship Association (VFA) works to ensure that school-age children and youth receive quality education and succeed in life by providing innovative programs for children and families. Much more than an after school program, they integrate families - helping parents navigate complex school systems for the success of their students. Last year they served 230 students, parents and teachers.

In VFA’s after school tutoring program, EASE, 76% of students increased their semester grade in at least one core subject and 70% increased English language skills. In the 21st Century program, a program that strives to teach new immigrants English language skills, 90% of students increased their English language performance. They also succeeded in increasing positive attitudes about cultures, school and education through the 21st Century and Saturday English School Programs.

“\nThis year, for the first in its 33-year history, VFA has a new board chair and several new board members. This is a significant milestone for us. It might not have been possible without the mentorship and advice of SVP’s lead partner, Tim Schottman. ”

—Vu Le, Executive Director

SVP’s Support
• **Human Resources:** Assessed personnel system and recommended improvements on current practices and provide guidance on implementation (Community Volunteer John Bottum)
• **Leadership Development:** Provided mentoring services to advance effectiveness of VFA (SVP Partner Diane Moore)
• **Mission, Vision, Strategy & Planning:** Developed a new strategic plan that will guide VFA for the next 3 years as it considers new programming (Paid Consultant)
• **Program Outcomes & Evaluation:** Worked with consultant to review and improve current assessment tools in order to inform and adjust programming (Paid Consultant)
Mission
To protect, restore, and sustain Washington’s environment.

Impact
Washington Environmental Council (WEC) works to protect Washington’s environmental quality and natural heritage for current and future generations. They focus on long-term progress for the environment through smart partnerships and by strategically focusing resources. Through partnerships with Washington Conservation Voters (WCV) and the Environmental Priorities Coalition, WEC has developed an approach for effective collaboration that is regarded as a model across the country.

WEC was instrumental in passing (and now enforcing) the foundational laws that help keep Washington’s environment healthy: the State Environmental Policy Act, the State Superfund Law, the Growth Management Act, and the Shoreline Management Act. As an organization they have succeeded in gaining adoption of California’s clean car standards for Washington, helped stop any further construction of a dock facility in the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve, and successfully lobbied a bill that started a system which provides free environmentally-sound recycling options for unwanted electronics paid for by electronics manufacturers.

“A large part of WEC’s success is our ability to capitalize on emerging opportunities and react to unanticipated threats to Washington’s environmental protections. This often requires being flexible enough to shift some resources towards unplanned program areas in a short timeframe; general operating grants support this critical component of our work.”
—Joan Crooks, Executive Director
2011 Most Significant Change Report

SVP’s Support
• Human Resources: Provided guidance to WEC as it begins career path development work and plans for strategic organizational growth over the next 2-5 years (SVP Partner Ingrid Rasch)
• Marketing & Communications: Developed collateral materials for their e-mail campaign and major fundraiser (Community Volunteer Maren Gibson)
• Leadership Development: Staff participation in peer learning cohort for fund development (Paid Consultant)
• Marketing & Communications: Performed marketing and communications audit (SVP Partner Deb Hagen-Lukens)
Strengthening Nonprofits: SVP’s Capacity Building Approach

First, what exactly is capacity building? We define it as the development of core skills, management practices, strategies, and systems to enhance an organization’s effectiveness, sustainability and ability to fulfill its mission. As you’ve seen in this report, SVP supports this work by providing cash grants, skilled volunteers, professional consultants, and leadership development opportunities.

At SVP we recognize that nonprofit practitioners are the program experts, and we aim to complement that expertise by working in partnership with those organizations. Therefore, the first step is listening to what they need. Two key tools help us do that:

**SVP Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT):** All Investees complete the OCAT upon receiving a grant. The OCAT is self-administered – typically completed by the Executive Director and key leadership from staff and board. Investees are also asked to review the tool annually so that any improvements can be measured over time. The OCAT helps the Investee identify and prioritize the capacity building areas where they want to focus their efforts. These areas include:

- Financial Management
- Fund Development
- Information Technology
- Marketing and Communications
- Program Outcomes & Evaluation
- Human Resources
- Mission, Vision, Strategy and Planning
- Legal Affairs
- Leadership Development
- Board Leadership

**Annual Work Plan:** Upon completing the OCAT, Investees develop an Annual Work Plan to define their goals and provide a roadmap for their partnership with SVP. From there SVP matches each Investee with volunteer(s) or paid consultants who can help them reach those goals.

You can learn more about our capacity building work at: [wwwsvpseattle.org](http://wwwsvpseattle.org) or by emailing Lynn Coriano (lynnccsvpseattle.org) or Mike Quinn (mikeqsvpseattle.org)
If you want beautiful trees, you have to have rich soil. If you want to have effective, sustainable programs, you have to have a strong, stable organizational infrastructure supporting it. It’s as simple, and beautiful, as that.