Connections
Our Mission
Social Venture Partners Seattle advances the common good by engaging and connecting a community of philanthropic leaders, strengthening local nonprofits, and catalyzing efforts to accelerate system change.

Our Vision
Social Venture Partners Seattle will become the most effective way for an individual to create positive social change, in the Puget Sound and beyond.

It is easy to lose touch with the reasons we give. To miss the connection between a donation and a fresh start for a family. To overlook the relationship between a finite number of volunteer hours and the long-term effectiveness of an organization. Or to forget how important it is to forge active partnerships between philanthropists and the people on the ground who make change possible.

These are the connections that form our community. A community dedicated to improving the lives of children and protecting our environment. A community of which Social Venture Partners Seattle (SVP) is honored to be a part.

We hope the stories shared in this report will remind us that when we pool our resources, we can increase our impact. When we leverage our donations with investments of time and professional skills, we can strengthen organizations. And when we connect with those who share our passion, we can grow in unexpected ways.

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CHILD CARE RESOURCES
EMPOWERING A MOM TO MAKE A FRESH START

"If it wasn’t for Child Care Resources, there is no way that I would be able to work. I wouldn’t be where I am. We’re happy now! More stable – a lot more stable."

Monica Webster
CCR Scholarship Recipient

When Monica Webster arrived in Seattle with her two-year-old son Isaiah and another child on the way, she had no job and no home. She had left behind an abusive relationship with an aim to start a new life. However, like so many others in her situation, Monica felt trapped. Her first priority was to take care of her children, which left her little time to find work and a place to live.

Terrie Yaffe, a resource specialist at Child Care Resources (CCR) helped Monica find stable housing and quality child care for Isaiah and, later, Ty.

"[Terrie] would even come to the house to meet with me and make sure that I had everything I needed," says Monica. "She was wonderful!"

With her children in good hands, Monica could dedicate her time and energy to securing employment. She now works for King County as a teen counselor and, with a CCR scholarship, is able to pay for continued care for her children.

In 2008, CCR helped to find child care for more than 7,500 children, 1,100 of whom were homeless.

SVP has supported CCR for five years. CCR leads efforts to promote equity for children, community stability, and school readiness by: helping families access and choose high quality child and after-school care; partnering with providers and caregivers to offer excellent care; and advocating for child care solutions that strengthen communities.

In 2008, CCR used an antiquated database that cost the organization valuable staff time. Partner Volunteer David Habib designed a new database that significantly reduced staff workloads. This allowed CCR’s "primary attentions to be focused where they belong... on empowering vulnerable families and children," says CCR CEO Deeann Burtch Puffert.

Partner Kathleen Hebert sat on the 2004 Grant Committee that selected CCR as an Investee. Inspired by what she learned, Kathleen signed up as CCR’s Lead Partner. For five years Kathleen has supported CCR’s internal growth by facilitating capacity-building projects that range from communications to human resources. Kathleen says that “to see CCR through – from the grant proposal stage all the way to its growth into one of the leading early learning organizations in Washington – has been an incredible learning experience for me.”

When Partner Janet Levinger first moved to Seattle, she wanted to get involved with organizations that focus on children but she knew very little about the nonprofit sector. Through participation in SVP, Janet gained a solid understanding of how nonprofits function and of what it takes to run a strong organization. "I have drawn upon this knowledge and experience in my role on the CCR board," says Janet. "I’m a more effective board member because of it."

"What I appreciate most about the funding SVP provides is that they understand the importance of – and are willing to invest in – strengthening the infrastructure of not-for-profit agencies like CCR. SVP’s funding has ultimately increased CCR’s ability to serve children in our community."

Deeann Burtch Puffert
CCR CEO

SVP PARTNER CONNECTIONS TO CHILD CARE RESOURCES
In addition to pooling their money to fund nonprofits like Child Care Resources (CCR), SVP Partners also leverage those dollars by volunteering their time and professional skills to strengthen these organizations. These are just a few of their stories...
In 2007, Climate Solutions decided it needed a more formal program to reach out to the emerging CleanTech sector and engage business people in Northwest climate policy. Partner Volunteer Rogers Weed worked closely with a Climate Solutions director to create a new group called Business Leaders for Climate Solutions. That group then lobbied for and helped win passage of the Climate Action and Green Jobs Bill, which set Washington State on a course to cap its carbon emissions and develop a training program for green jobs.

Every year Partners like Maggie Walker donate to SVP Seattle, making it possible to fund organizations like Climate Solutions, and to support the work of Partners like Steve and Rogers. Maggie is a founding Partner, and is deeply engaged in the philanthropic community. Though Maggie does not volunteer with SVP directly, she remains a solid supporter of the SVP model as a way to get involved and “as a mechanism through which people can start their [philanthropic] journey.”

In 2005 Steve Sundquist took on the role of Lead Partner for Climate Solutions. Within the first year of this relationship Steve was invited to join Climate Solutions’ board of directors. Shortly thereafter he was elected board president, and is just now completing his two-year term. “It’s been a great honor and a wonderful opportunity,” says Steve. “Global warming is our generation’s greatest challenge, and Climate Solutions’ capacity and effectiveness in accelerating practical and profitable solutions has grown immensely over the years of SVP’s relationship.”

Farmer Kent Madison of Echo, Oregon had dreams of developing a wind farm but lacked the funding to do so. That all changed when he attended Climate Solutions’ annual Harvesting Clean Energy conference. There, Kent met grant writer Brian Jackson, who helped him secure a $500,000 USDA grant.

Today, Kent and his neighbors are installing 40 wind turbines on their land. The wind farm is projected to produce 60 megawatts of electricity, which could power more than 13,000 Portland homes.

“In had an evolution in my thinking,” said Kent. “I realized I wasn’t a farmer, I was a natural resource manager.”

At this same conference, Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone was inspired by the idea of reviving rural economies with clean energy. Returning home to Montana, Peggy began a program to market wind resources.

Cascade County now hosts a steady stream of developers from all over the world – from Ireland to Houston. To date, they have built one $10 million wind farm and have leased 200,000 additional acres for future farms.

SVP has supported Climate Solutions for five years. Climate Solutions’ mission is to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming by galvanizing leadership, growing investment and bridging divides.

The message at Climate Solutions’ Harvesting Clean Energy conferences is that people can take action – we’re all part of the solution. People walk away inspired to do something, and they get the tools to do it.

Peggy Beltrone
Cascade County (Montana) Commissioner

SVP has provided critical dollars for our programs, members who have become key leaders of our Board, and volunteers who have helped us with strategic planning, human resource issues, and more. SVP has bolstered our work at every level.

Gregg Small
Climate Solutions Executive Director
On January 16, in front of the entire Aki Kurose Middle School, Mariah, LaJhaya, Claire, Ajhana, Deon, Anthony and CJ got up to sing. They began by reading the names of young people who were recent victims of violence. Then, led by AmeriCorps member Thad Moore, they performed an original song, “Street Soldier.”

Metrocenter YMCA’s Alive and Free participants refer to themselves as Street Soldiers – people who are committed to eliminating violence from their own lives and from their community. They live by the motto, "The more you know, the more you owe," and this performance was an opportunity to share with their school a commitment to end youth violence.

SVP Seattle has supported the Metrocenter YMCA’s Alive and Free program for five years. Alive and Free is a violence-prevention program for middle school students that empowers youth to eliminate risk factors in their lives that lead to violence, such as guns, drugs and alcohol.

After six months with the program, seven out of every ten participants eliminated at least one risk factor. As participant Royce says, “The more I know about [Alive and Free], the more I can make sure I stay away from the streets … and not be killed by street violence.”

Now as a Street Soldier, we’ve come to share the word with you. “Cause the more we know, the more we owe to you, young people. So come gather ‘round and listen to the words of the song:

A Street Soldier is committed to eliminating the violence
A Street Soldier is committed to eliminating the risk factors
A Street Soldier deals with their emotional residue
A Street Soldier adopts new rules for living, ya’ll

Lyrics from "Street Soldier" by Thad Moore.

I think [Alive and Free] is important because you don’t go around telling other kids, ‘Hey, do your math.’ You need to give them real advice to keep them alive, and that’s what [a] Street Soldier does.

Jameer
Alive and Free Participant

"In more than 25 years with the YMCA, I’ve worked with funders on more than 180 grants. In all of these relationships, I have never experienced the kind of transformational support that SVP is providing Metrocenter YMCA."

Jennifer Parker
Metrocenter YMCA Executive Director

Lead Partner Ron Tanemura has worked closely over the last five years with Metrocenter YMCA to optimize its relationship with SVP. While Metrocenter Executive Director Jennifer Parker speaks highly of Ron’s facilitation and “keen analysis,” Ron himself tends to focus on how the relationship has benefited him. “While I like to think that I have been helpful to Metrocenter, I know that I am better for what they have taught me,” Ron says. “The learning is a two-way street, and that’s probably what makes our partnership successful.”

Partner Volunteer Bill Ellis used his management expertise to facilitate a multi-month process with Metrocenter’s board and staff that resulted in clear direction for their expansion efforts. “As a result, Metrocenter will train more youth workers around the region in effective youth development and anti-violence methods,” reports Jennifer Parker, Metrocenter Executive Director.

Partner Volunteer Carol Ryan was instrumental in creating a strategic marketing plan for the Street Soldiers program, assisting with streamlining the look and content of Metrocenter’s materials and proposals. “She also provided a critical eye for proposals to ensure we were presenting a consistent message to the people we serve, as well as to the people from whom we seek funding,” says Jovi Catena, Alive and Free program coordinator. Since this successful volunteer partnership, Carol has moved to the nonprofit sector permanently. She is now the Director of Development and Communications for Explorations in Math (another one of SVP’s Investees).

The learning is a two-way street, and that’s probably what makes our partnership successful.”

Partner Volunteer Bill Ellis

"In more than 25 years with the YMCA, I’ve worked with funders on more than 180 grants. In all of these relationships, I have never experienced the kind of transformational support that SVP is providing Metrocenter YMCA."

Jennifer Parker
Metrocenter YMCA Executive Director

"I think [Alive and Free] is important because you don’t go around telling other kids, ‘Hey, do your math.’ You need to give them real advice to keep them alive, and that’s what [a] Street Soldier does.

Jameer
Alive and Free Participant
Dear SVP Community:

“When the going gets tough …” Well, that’s too trite. How about: “The ultimate measure of a human is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)”?

We live in extraordinary times: we face the greatest economic challenges of our lifetime (our grandparents’ stories about the Great Depression suddenly don’t seem so foreign); America elected its first African American president, a remarkable milestone regardless of your political beliefs; and it has never been more imperative to truly, collaboratively face up to the world’s fundamental social issues like education reform, health care, poverty at home and in the developing world, and so forth.

Social Venture Partners is unquestionably just one small dot on the map of organizations and leaders working to help change the world. But if we steadfastly maintain our values of respect and humility, the vision we defined for ourselves in 2007 is one that we can aspire to with growing urgency and clarity – SVP will become the highest-impact way for an individual to effect positive social change, in the Puget Sound and beyond.

How is it possible in these “tough times” to continue to hold such an aspiration? One reason is because we have to; we simply must. More concretely, it’s because our vision is grounded in our work, impact and experiences from our first 10 years. We know that we have:

• Granted more than $10 million and given more than 25,000 hours of strategic volunteer time to help strengthen local nonprofits.
• Developed one of the most effective and high-impact models of philanthropy development in the world.
• Expanded to 25 cities in the U.S., Canada, Japan and, very soon, Singapore.
• Worked with and learned from nonprofits that profoundly improve early childhood development, education, out of school time programs for youth, and the environment.
• Watched dozens of our Partners become civic and philanthropic leaders.

These accomplishments are the product of a community of individuals and organizations that came together to pool and leverage resources, to learn from each other, and to create a world in which every child has the opportunity for success in a healthy environment. It is this network – harnessed for collective impact – that makes our aspirations achievable.

In this report, you have read about the people that make it all possible. And make SVP what it uniquely is. In following pages, we share a bit more about where we are today and where we are going tomorrow.

Thank you.

Paul Shoemaker, Executive Director
Lisa Chin, Board Chair

Social Venture Partners Seattle (SVP) is a network of individuals from diverse backgrounds who pool their expertise and resources to make a collective impact that far exceeds what any individual could achieve. This leveraged approach allows SVP to provide larger, and longer-term, grants to organizations in the areas of early childhood development, K-12 education, out of school time programs for youth, and the environment.

SVP Partners have the opportunity to work directly with nonprofits. This allows philanthropists and nonprofits to learn from each other and build capacity for positive community impact. SVP Partners make hands-on contributions to Investees through strategic volunteering, determining grant decisions through a committee process, and supporting the internal work of SVP through working groups.

Using this model, SVP supports a community of passionate and talented individuals who are dedicated to improving the lives of children and protecting our environment.

**Our Values**

- We are a community of partners whose investments and advocacy are driven by our interests and passion for the common good.
- We must always be humble in our actions and words. We seek and heed the counsel of outside voices.
- We are committed to leveraging our combined financial and human capital to create more value than we could as individuals.
- We believe in the strategic strength and moral necessity of diversity in the SVP Partnership.
- We collaborate with nonprofit and philanthropic organizations that have compatible goals.
- We value follow-through and measure both the impact of our investments as well as our greater goals.
- We acknowledge the limitations of what we know and embrace the potential of things yet undreamed - continual learning is the core of our culture.
- We respect the work and expertise of our Investees and Partners.
Since SVP was founded in 1997, the model has been replicated throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, and (very soon) Singapore. There are now 25 official affiliates, and the number grows every year. SVP International, headquartered in Seattle, supports this network. Its staff facilitates cooperation, conversation and resource-sharing between affiliates, ensuring that investments made by one group can be leveraged by all.

The collective impact of this network can already be measured. More than $26.5 million have been granted to more than 300 organizations since 1997. Plus, a 2007 survey distributed to the U.S. affiliates indicated that the majority of Partners across the country are giving more, are more strategic in their giving, and have increased their volunteerism since joining SVP. The majority of those who experienced these changes attribute them (at least in part) to SVP.

As a dynamic community, we are constantly challenging ourselves to evolve and increase our collective impact. At SVP we initially advanced our mission through our core work: grantmaking, philanthropy education and development, and capacity-building for nonprofits. Over the next five years SVP will continue this core work, but we will also build upon it with new efforts that were identified in our 2007–2012 Strategic Plan.

We intend to focus on five Strategic Initiatives that are illustrated in the outer ring of the diagram to the right, and expanded upon in the table below. For more information please download our Strategic Plan from the Key Documents section of our website:

www.svpseattle.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIC INITIATIVE</th>
<th>WHY IT’S IMPORTANT</th>
<th>EXAMPLES OF THE INITIATIVE IN ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen our voice within the philanthropic community</td>
<td>Encouraging other philanthropic organizations to provide general operating support and to invest in capacity building will help strengthen nonprofits and increase their ability to accomplish their missions.</td>
<td>Presentations for key audiences that demonstrate the benefits of, and address common fears regarding, general operating support and capacity building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extend our advocacy and policy work</td>
<td>Strengthening our system through advocacy and policy work will increase our ability improve the lives of children and protect our environment.</td>
<td>A network mapping and weaving project focused on strengthening connections and collaboration among early learning stakeholders and policy makers in Washington State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen and support our community of Partners and Investees</td>
<td>Connecting organizations and passionate and talented individuals will lead to beneficial collaboration and increased community impact.</td>
<td>SVP Partners getting together to share their philanthropic values with their children and each other through direct service projects (e.g. beach clean-ups, food drives) in the Family Service Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set and raise the bar for capacity building and philanthropy development</td>
<td>Looking critically at what we have accomplished and identifying where we can grow will help ensure that we continuously increase our ability to strengthen nonprofits and develop more effective philanthropists.</td>
<td>Organizational efforts geared towards getting SVP’s framework for philanthropy development adopted as a national standard, and honing our capacity building approach to help nonprofits get stronger faster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop more robust revenue and resource capacity</td>
<td>Supporting and expanding our core work and strategic initiatives will require a solid financial foundation.</td>
<td>An incremental $1.1 million raised to invest in SVP’s five-year plans and goals (completed in 2007).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Working with SVP is great for an organization ready to aggressively build their capacity. There is no question that our capacity has vastly increased through our partnership.”

Invesee Survey Response

BY THE NUMBERS

INVEES IMPACT

Each year SVP conducts a survey of its Investees to evaluate SVP’s work, and to build strong and effective relationships. Below are the highlights from the 2007–2008 survey, which was completed by 182 Partners.

97% of our Investees rate the grant dollars and SVP Partner time & talent as “Extremely Valuable.”

60% of our Investees received a total in excess of $15,000 in new cash and in-kind donations from SVP Partners (who were not previous donors), and from referrals and contacts established through SVP Partners.

More than 85% of our Investees characterize SVP as “Excellent” (19% rate it as “Good”).

Among those Partners whose giving level changed: 40% said their involvement with SVP had significant or primary impact.

More than 70% of the Partners surveyed are giving more strategically since joining SVP.

More than 65% of the Partners surveyed have increased their giving since joining SVP, and 20% have doubled their giving.

Among those Partners whose giving level changed:

• 54% say their involvement with SVP had some impact

SVP Partners or SVP Funders among other funders

Grantmaking decisions

SVP-funded consultations

SVP Knowledge-sharing with other funders

SVP-collaborative relationships within SVP

Supporting capacity-building among other nonprofits

Leverage resources

Advising board members

Translating program outcomes and impact

Increasing revenue

Working with SVP is great for an organization ready to aggressively build their capacity. There is no question that our capacity has vastly increased through our partnership.”

Investee Survey Response

THE VALUE OF SVP ASSISTANCE FOR INVEES:

Understanding program outcomes and impact

Increasing revenue

Employing lesson learned

Offering strategic advice

Leverage resources

Advising board members

Increasing revenue

Increases the amount partners give since joining SVP

Changes in how partners give since joining SVP

Changes in community involvement since joining SVP

Changes in the amount partners give since joining SVP

Percentage Decreased

Percentage Increased

Percentage Stayed the Same

Percentage Increased More than 100%
In addition to the grants made, SVP Partners contributed more than 5,300 volunteer hours between 2006 and 2008 to help strengthen our Investees and leverage our financial investments.

### FINANCIALS

**JANUARY 1, 2006–JUNE 30, 2007 (18 MONTHS)**

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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$337,795</td>
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<td>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>$1,631,671</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EQUITY</td>
<td>$1,631,671</td>
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**FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2007**

| Balance | $1,631,671 |

### FINANCIALS

**JULY 1, 2007–JUNE 30, 2008 (12 MONTHS)**

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<td>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>$2,584,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EQUITY</td>
<td>$2,584,998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008**

| Balance | $2,584,998 |

### FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE DETAIL

**DIRECT GRANTS & CONSULTING FOR INVESTEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>$20,712</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philanthropy Development</td>
<td>$2,411</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$1,048</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$24,171</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

**CAPABILITY BUILDING**

- **Direct Grants & Consulting for Investees**: 72%
- **Philanthropy Development**: 11%
- **Management & General**: 4%
- **Funding**: 4%

**PLEASE NOTE**

In 2006-2007 SVP changed the start of its fiscal year from January 1 to July 1. Thus these numbers reflect an 18-month period with two grant cycles as opposed to our 2007–2008 financials which only reflect one grant cycle.

**FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE DETAIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Grants &amp; Consulting for Investees</td>
<td>$892,000</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philanthropy Development</td>
<td>$158,986</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$237,901</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,288,987</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

**ADVOCACY AND FIELD BUILDING**

- **Direct Grants & Consulting for Investees**: 32%
- **Philanthropy Development**: 21%
- **Management & General**: 14%
- **Funding**: 5%
- **Field Building**: 3%
The support of Social Venture Kids is especially important to Youth Eastside Services because YES strives to guide and empower young people. The fact that a group of youth chose our programs for a grant means a lot to us.

Patti Skilton-McGougian
Youth Eastside Services Executive Director
In the SVP Family Service Group, Partners get together and share their philanthropic values with their children through direct service projects.
“Our involvement with our amazing SVP volunteer, Anthony [Short], has brought Powerful Voices’ technological capacity forward decades in only nine months.”

Ann Muno
Powerful Voices Associate Director

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Program Director, Capacity Building
Susan Fairchild
Senior Manager
Soﬁa Michelakis
Program Associate
Marinee Rupes
Office Manager
Willow Russell
Communications Manager
Paul Shoemaker
Executive Director
Sonja Whitaker
Executive Assistant

SPECIAL THANKS
Thank you to Lisa and John Merrill, Yoram Bernet, and our Investees for generously donating their photographs, and to the Investees and Partners who took time from their busy schedules to share their stories for this report.

“SVP PARTNERS 2006 TO 2008”

20 SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS • 2006–2008 BIENNIAL REPORT