



## New Partner FAQs

### How do I find out about news on our Investees, volunteer opportunities, events, etc.?

We send a monthly email out to our Partners highlighting upcoming events, updates on our Investees, new opportunities to volunteer with or support our Investees, and more!

Additionally, as we get to know you, your interests and skill set, when events or opportunities arise in which we think you might be interested in, we'll reach out personally to make sure you're aware.

There are a few other useful SVPWR information sources that you should keep tuned into:

- Our website: [www.svpwr.org](http://www.svpwr.org)
- Our Twitter feed ([@SVPWR](https://twitter.com/SVPWR)) and Facebook page

And you can always reach out to our Executive Director, Rose, at any time ([rose@svpwr.org](mailto:rose@svpwr.org)), or our Operations and Communications Manager, Taryn ([taryn@svpwr.org](mailto:taryn@svpwr.org)).

### I want to make the most of my SVPWR experience. What is the best way to start?

There are many ways to dive into SVP – the important thing is to follow your passion and interests. We highly recommend that you meet one-on-one with Rose ([rose@svpwr.org](mailto:rose@svpwr.org)) to discuss your interests, skills, and what you'd like to learn/take away from your SVPWR experience. SVPWR staff is always available to answer any questions and offer guidance about how to start getting involved – don't be shy!

Some other easy entry points are:

- Attend a Community Tour
- Join the Investment Committee
- Come to a Partner social

These are great ways to get to know the Partnership and learn about what's going on in our community!



## How can I promote that I'm part of SVP?

There are many ways to tell others you're part of SVPWR – and we appreciate your help in spreading the word. Here are a few things you can do:

- Add SVPWR to your [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) profiles - let people know you're a SVPWR partner!
- Get the latest news and updates by following us on Twitter [@SVPWR](#)
- Like us on [Facebook](#) – and invite your friends to do the same
- On Instagram? So are we! Follow us at [@svpwr](#)
- Share SVPWR. See a tweet or a post you enjoy? Forward it, tweet it or post it on your wall.

## I'm worried I can't commit much time right now. Is that a problem?

The beauty of SVPWR is that it's a team effort: you give what you can when you can. If you're low on time that's okay – the model works because other Partners are there to help out.

## I want to get in touch with another SVP Partner. Where can I find his/her information?

All of our Partners are [listed on our website](#). If you'd like us to make a direct introduction, we'd be happy to do so.

## I have a colleague who may be interested in SVP. What information can I provide?

We love when Partners share their experience with others and talk about why they joined SVPWR. We also have potential Partner kits for you to give to anyone who may be interested in SVPWR, which provide an overview of who we are, what we do and why it is a unique approach to helping in our community. Please contact Rose ([rose@svpwr.org](mailto:rose@svpwr.org)) for more information.



## **Do I need to be a subject matter expert to volunteer with an Investee?**

Not at all! You just need to have an interest and desire to get involved and we will help connect you to the activities that you will enjoy the most.

## **How are Investees selected?**

Our Investment Committee, which is open to all Partners, spends about six months [reviewing applications, checking references and finances, and interviewing finalists](#). Each May the Committee recommends an organization for that year's Investee, which is then taken to the Board of Directors for approval. The year's Investee is announced at our annual Spring All Partners Meeting. Please contact Rose ([rose@svpwr.org](mailto:rose@svpwr.org)) for more information about joining the Committee.

## **How long do we work with an Investee?**

We typically work with an Investee over a three year period, which includes multiple grants and countless volunteer hours to help our Investees build their organizational capacity.

## **What is capacity building?**

We define capacity building as the development of core skills, management practices, strategies, and systems to enhance an organization's effectiveness, sustainability and ability to fulfill its mission. We build capacity with Investees in a variety of ways – by offering resources (general operating funds, skilled volunteers), listening to their needs, providing tools to help identify and prioritize where they want to focus, developing and implementing a plan, and checking in on progress and reporting on impact.

## **Most funders fund programs – why do we fund the organization?**

Most nonprofits still receive restricted grants and need to spend those funds on specific programs, often leaving only a small percentage to cover critical areas such as staffing, marketing, evaluation, professional development, technology, and rent. We believe that this distinction is unnecessary and hampers nonprofits. What impact is the organization having on our community? Can they demonstrate it? Have we built a relationship on a foundation of mutual trust? These are the questions



we focus on. If the answers are solid, then where they spend their grant dollars is irrelevant.

## Who is on the Board of Directors of SVP?

[SVPWR's Board of Directors](#) is chaired by Ginny Dybenko. Current members are listed below:

- Danielle Braun
- Alex Brown
- Lina Caputo
- Ginny Dybenko
- Mark Guibert
- Suzanne Hyatt
- Jacqui Murphy
- Glenn Smith