**Prospective Partner Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **What is SVP?**

SVP (Social Venture Partners) is a global network of local individuals that is focused on tackling local challenges, particularly around families, youth and children. Going beyond traditional philanthropy, partners donate their talent, time and funds to amplify the impact they have on each vetted charity in which the partnership invests. In turn, partners realize rewarding benefits from their relationships with local nonprofits and each other, resulting in shared learning and increased giving of both time and money.

1. **What does SVP do?**

SVP carefully selects local nonprofits, like Strong Start ([www.strongstart.ca](http://www.strongstart.ca)), Kinbridge Community Association ([www.kinbridge.org](http://www.kinbridge.org)), Hospice of Waterloo Region ([www.hospicewaterloo.ca](http://www.hospicewaterloo.ca)) and Planned Parenthood Waterloo Region ([www.ppwr.on.ca](http://www.ppwr.on.ca)) that show promise to grow their impact. Then SVP surrounds them with support for at least three years, which includes an annual grant plus the guidance of talented partners with backgrounds in areas such as finance, marketing, governance, planning, and human resources. Because of that support, SVP is able to leverage more than $3.00 for every $1 granted.

1. **Why does what SVP do matter?**

There is a chasm between the challenges we face today and the scale at which we are engaging those challenges. These problems aren’t going to solve themselves. And throwing money at them isn’t going to make them go away. Together SVP helps build [communities](http://www.svpseattle.org/why-it-matters/collaborative-solutions) that are able to solve our most entrenched social problems. That is how we cross that chasm: Together.

1. **Why should I join SVP?**

You’re interested in doing more than just writing cheques and you want to see how your investment is making an impact directly in your community. SVP will [connect](http://www.svpseattle.org/how-you-fit-in/what-we-do/connect-philanthropists) you to the [people](http://www.svpseattle.org/how-you-fit-in/who-we-are/network-of-partners) and [organizations](http://www.svpseattle.org/how-you-fit-in/who-we-are/nonprofits-we-fund) that share your passion for giving and helping your community, and together we will amplify your impact. Because we work together and donate talent, time and funds to local nonprofits, SVP is able to leverage more than $3.00 for every $1 granted.

1. **Why give to SVP? Why not give directly to a nonprofit?**

### By pooling our funds, we can make a bigger impact on an organization than if we give alone. When a SVP grant committee makes an investment, we generally give more than $60,000 to the investee over three years. Think of that impact. Most of cannot do that alone.

But we make the investment even greater. We have a group of people with many different talents who can help the investee develop its capacity. It’s the breadth and depth of experience that our teams bring by working together that more than doubles the value of our cash investment.

Also SVP is training a cadre of effective donors, volunteers, and advocates. As we all go out into the community, we help build and strengthen networks and encourage collaboration.

1. **What contribution do I need to make?**

SVP partners make a personally meaningful contribution to SVP of at least $5,000 annually ($2,500 for individuals under the age of 35). Contributions are tax-deductible. Donations are pooled to fund the local [nonprofits](http://www.svpseattle.org/how-you-fit-in/who-we-are/nonprofits-we-fund) SVP supports, as well as our own programs and organization. These contributions are stretched further by those who volunteer their time and skills to strengthen our Investees and SVP.

1. **I’m busy right now so how can I join SVP?**

Becoming a partner is easy and SVP is about investing to make a bigger impact together so you give what you can when you can. If you’re constrained by time, that’s okay – the model works because other partners are there to help out. The important thing is to get started now in bettering your community.

1. **I want to join but I’m not sure I can afford it…what options exist?**

We understand that $5,000 is a great deal of money to individuals, so a few options are available to help with donations:

We have an Associate Partner level that offers a reduced rate of $2,500 to those under 35 years of age

You can become a partner as two individuals where there is a family or significant personal relationship (i.e. spouses/partners, siblings, parent/child)

Some partners choose to make their donation in semi-annual payments

You can approach your employer to discuss opportunities for companies to sponsor partners or match your personal contribution

We can work with your employer to implement automatic payroll deductions

1. **How do I join SVP?**

If you are interested in becoming a SVP partner, please contact Rose Greensides, Executive Director of SVP at [rose@svpwr.org](mailto:rose@svpwr.org) or 519-772-4590 or join online at [www.svpwr.org](http://www.svpwr.org).

1. **Where can I get additional information?**

For more information about SVP or to become a partner, visit [www.svpwr.org](http://www.svpwr.org). You can also follow SVP on Twitter @SVPWR, like us on Facebook and on LinkedIn.