Our Partners

Social Venture Partners is a philanthropic organization, but we do more than give away money. We build powerful relationships among people who want to give back and the nonprofits that make change possible — because we know everyone can do more good, together. Thanks to you, our Partners, our community is now stronger.

Janeen Abougoush  Vanessa Mackie  Pam Rinehart
Terri Adair  Judy MacLachlan  Brian Rogers
Tracy Beairsto  Kate MacLachlan  Keith Seel
Carol Byler  Harlene Mann  Carter Siebens
David Byler  Brenda Marshall  Ellie Siebens
Reinier Deurwaarder  Kate McCutcheon  Cynthia Stephenson
Lori Farley  Avnish Mehta  Erin Thrall
Trudy Gahlinger  Frank Mele  Kathryn Waslen
Rod Garossino  Paul Moore  Sue Williams Brawn
Alison Hayter  Tyler Murray  Andy Williamson
Christian Hluchy  Spence Nichol  Krystyna Williamson
Kathryn Hluchy  Martha Nystrom  Geoff Zakaib
Grant Hofer  Angie Oicle  Katharine Zhang
Thiloma Hofer  Doug Oicle  Brad Zumwalt
Dave Hughes  Erin Poeta  Tanya Zumwalt
Colin Jackson  Jackie Pyke
Peter Johnson  Don Rempel
Jeff Mackie  Barry Rinehart

Thank You!

Our Local Impact

This year, SVP Calgary supported 3 local nonprofits. These organizations have an amazing impact on the lives of the people they serve and we are very proud to be their accomplices.

Autism Aspergers Friendship Society (AAFS)
The Autism Aspergers Friendship Society provides respite care in a recreational environment for children, youth and adults on the Autism Spectrum. AAFS is constructed and implemented by the youth; they envision and facilitate programming where youth can choose their own activities and every intricate detail of each activity regardless of how difficult it is to conceptualize or organize.

The Alex
The Alex has long been providing innovative and effective health and social solutions for Calgarians in need. Since 2008, The Alex Youth Health Centre (YHC) has been making a difference in the lives of Calgary's youth aged 12 to 24 and deeply understands the unique challenges faced by vulnerable youth in our community.

Two Wheel View (TWV)
Two Wheel View provides life changing experiences for young people. TWV is a mission driven organization that creates opportunities for young people to learn and practice lessons in leadership, health and wellness, self esteem, achievement, and environmental stewardship through their participation in bicycle education programs and expeditions.

Our most recent investee

CanLearn Society
CanLearn Society is an innovator in family literacy programs. They are leaders in the field of Learning Disabilities and ADHD. CanLearn Society promotes learning, creates, uses and shares knowledge to remove learning barriers and supports lifelong learning. They believe that learning changes lives and that they can help individuals with learning, literacy and attention difficulties reach their full potential and become contributing members to our society.
Partners' Story

This year, SVP Calgary is offering more opportunities for people to get engaged with our Encore Fellows Program, specifically designed for baby boomers and our new U35 Program for the next generation of philanthropists. Here are the stories of three of our Partners.

Thiloma Hofer Partner

Thiloma Hofer is a Chartered Accountant who earned her designation at KPMG LLP. She left public practice in 2007 to start a family. This change in her life also provided her with an opportunity to get back into volunteering and in 2008 she joined Social Venture Partners.

Thiloma volunteered a lot growing up - particularly at the Calgary General Hospital with the PARTY Program and in the Emergency Department. “It’s important for me to be involved in the community because I want to live in a vibrant and caring place and the way for us to build that is for its citizens to be engaged. I also want my children to be connected to their community in a meaningful way. Our family’s commitment to SVP helps us to show them that this is an important value.”

Thiloma likes that SVP builds multi-year relationships with its investees as few organizations can be transformed in just 12 months. “I think that building up the infrastructure of non-profit organizations makes sense. It helps them to achieve their vision more effectively and possibly reach more people who need their help.”

Being an SVP Partner offers Thiloma a lot of personal benefits: “I have time and skills to contribute but I need some flexibility because I have a young family. As a stay at home professional volunteering with SVP has helped me to stay engaged in my professional life. My involvement with SVP has also provided me with an opportunity to expand my skills in governance, strategy and human resources.”

For the past five years, Thiloma has committed many volunteer hours to SVP. She has been serving on the Board of Directors since 2009. She was also a member of the Investment Committee for two years and is presently involved in the Fast Pitch Committee. “Through my involvement on different committees I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of great people including other Partners, Fast Pitch participants and coaches as well as staff members, volunteers and clients of organizations we support.”

Rod Garossino Encore Fellow Partner

Rod Garossino joined Social Venture Partners as an Encore Fellow Partner in January 2014. Rod is Canada’s first Encore Fellow and as part of his “encore career” with SVP his role is to launch and grow the Encore Fellows Program in the city.

Rod worked for 20 years as a Community Investment and Fund Development professional. He was not emotionally or financially ready for traditional retirement after he transitioned away from the corporate 9-5 life due to a company restructuring. That is why becoming an Encore Fellow was a perfect fit for Rod: “My Encore Fellowship at SVP provides me with an opportunity to do something that offers work-life balance and to fulfill my desire to find a way to contribute to something with a social purpose.”

Rod is very excited to be channeling his broad experience working with nonprofit organizations in his Fellowship at SVP. “It is very rewarding for me to be connecting transitioning baby boomer professionals with nonprofit organizations in high-impact capacity-building projects.”

As an SVP Partner, Rod has the opportunity to take part in SVP’s activities and philanthropic opportunities. “I am so impressed with the SVP model of engaged philanthropy”, says Rod, “and am proud to be part of this organization, both here in Calgary and as part of the global SVP Network.”

Kathryn Waslen U35 Partner

Kathryn Walsen developed a true passion for philanthropy while working at The Calgary Foundation. She joined Social Venture Partners in January 2014 after hearing about the organization from a U35 friend who attended Fast Pitch for the first time and fell in love with the organization.

Kathryn loves SVP’s model of providing long-term engagement to the investees and going beyond just writing checks. “By providing time, skills and money to our investees for 3 to 5 years we can definitely see more transformative changes.”

Kathryn got engaged right away by becoming a member of the U35 Committee and of the Investment Committee, which she will be co-chairing this year. Since joining SVP she feels much more connected to the community she was born and raised in: “SVP provided me with many opportunities to learn more about nonprofits in Calgary. As a result of my involvement with SVP, I am now also volunteering with another organization I learned about through SVP.”

Outside of her philanthropic involvement, Kathryn works as a consultant for a wealth management firm and for Simpact Strategy Group.

“Finding it is so rewarding to get involved in nonprofit organizations that make meaningful contributions in our community. People of my generation have a great opportunity to effect change and make an imprint in the city.”
SVP is both local and global.

On one hand, our philanthropy is local. Our Partners invest money, time and skills in nonprofits that share their immediate community. On the other hand, our Partners are part of a global network of philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and changemakers. They share common ideals, similar struggles, and can tap into a wealth of experience and knowledge through network-wide forums and SVP’s annual conference.

SVP’s Global Network

38 Cities
3000+ SVP Partners
$50 Million in Contributions
600+ Nonprofits Supported

SVP Calgary by the Numbers

10+ Educational Sessions and Peer Learning Opportunities
23+ Volunteer Opportunities with Nonprofits and SVP
12 Partners Serving on Boards and in Leadership Roles at Nonprofits
2334 Volunteer Hours Dedicated to Smart Grantmaking and Nonprofit Capacity Building

91% of survey respondents indicated that SVP had at least some impact on their involvement in the community, with over one third reporting that SVP had significant impact or was the primary factor.

"SVP has helped me go from unconnected to the (local) community and its challenges to (being) very connected. I especially have grown from how you have leveraged my skills and expertise for the greater group. Bravo!"

2013 Survey Participant

SVP’s Impact on Community Involvement
Over the last year SVP investees partnered with volunteers on 8 different projects and used SVP funds to leverage their work.

Add that up, and in 2014 SVP provided local nonprofits with ...

$75,000
In unrestricted grants

$250,500
In volunteer time from skilled professionals
BASED ON $100 PER HOUR

$325,500
IN TOTAL SUPPORT

TURNING $1 OF GRANT FUNDS INTO $4.35 OF NONPROFIT SUPPORT

Since 2000 SVP has partnered with 19 nonprofits giving more than $2 million and an estimated 25 thousand volunteer hours.

"In turbulent times, the notion that Social Venture Partners is just a phone call away is enough to dissolve your worries and remind you that with just a bit of creative problem solving and support, your afflictions can be easily overcome."
Raewyn Reid, Autism Aspergers Friendship Society

Strong Nonprofits Deliver Better Results

Investee Snapshot - Two Wheel View

Two Wheel View (TWV) has been changing kids’ lives from the seat of a bike since 2000. Founded by Rick and Tanya McFerrin after a two year bicycle trip around the world that inspired them and changed their view of the world, they wanted to find a way to give youth a similar opportunity. TWV works with youth in two flagship programs, Bike Club and Two Wheel View Expeditions.

Bike Club uses the bicycle as a tool to build self-esteem, confidence and community in 16 communities in Calgary each school year. Youth who attend the program earn a recycled bicycle, a brand new lock and a helmet.

On the Expedition side, TWV offers adventurous and educational travel experiences for youth 14-17, groups, families and individuals. On these trips, participants become attuned to local culture, assume new levels of personal responsibility, increase their environmental awareness and gain the experience of a lifetime.

Since SVP Calgary’s investment, TWV has been able to work with an additional 250 youth in the Bike Club program and coordinate ten life changing trips from groups of youth. They’ve also had the opportunity to pilot additional classroom-based programs, including Bike Science, which teaches Grade 4 students their simple machines unit using bikes. Over the last two years, TWV has doubled the staff team and increased the number of members on the board, all allowing for a bright future for the organization.

“In 2012 we were finalists in Fast Pitch and since then, we’ve been able to further develop our communications and marketing tools, which has helped us to develop new partnerships, leverage donations and recruit for our programs more successfully than ever before.” – Program and Communications Coordinator, Laura Istead.

“From the board level right to the front lines, we are working towards developing three organizational pillars – growth, sustainability and results. The support and expertise we’ve received from SVP has helped us to succeed in all of these areas.”
Rick McFerrin, Founder and Executive Director

Twofold View has been a Social Venture Partners Calgary investee since 2012. This investment came at a critical time in the organization’s history and has helped to ensure its continued growth and development.

“I learned it wasn’t actually that hard to fix a bike because I thought it would be impossible and it wasn’t that hard.”
Bike Club Participant

From the board level right to the front lines, we are working towards developing three organizational pillars – growth, sustainability and results. The support and expertise we’ve received from SVP has helped us to succeed in all of these areas.”
Rick McFerrin, Founder and Executive Director
The Social Venture Partners Fast Pitch program is a free, two-month training and mentoring program for innovative nonprofits that are effecting social change in Calgary. The program culminates in a "Fast Pitch" competition – a high energy, fast moving, quick fire presentation event where finalists have 3 minutes to present their ideas for social change to the audience and judges.

**Our 2014 Fast Pitch Winners**

**Mealshare - Jeremy Bryant: Judges' Choice Award**

**Branch Out Foundation - Crystal Phillips: Coaches' Choice Award and Audience's Choice Award**

**Congratulations to all our participants**

Art a la Carte - Gomaa Farouk
Breast Cancer Supportive Care - Patricia Wallace
Calgary Bridge Foundation For Youth - Simone Brown
Cerebral Palsy Kids and Families - Sheralee Stelter
Chickwagon - Ginger Demchuk
Children's Link - Blythe Gunn
Connections - Erin Waite
Coalition for Equal Access to Education - Anila Leeyen
C-Quest - Darcy Cuthill
Dare To Care - Lisa Dixon-Wells
Diakonos - Diana Festjo
Empowering Minds - Scott Berry
Legacy One - Greg Denie
LINKages - Carmen Wyatt
Missing Children Society of Canada - Tricia Harder
Student Energy - Julia Kavuma
The Freed Artists Society - Nathan Lenet
Tumaini - Quinn Wilton
Women in Need Society - Cathy Coutts
Young Women of Power - Alison Springer
YouthLink - Megan Duffy

**Special Thanks to our Coaches**

Matt Aubrey • Aaron Bird • Jason Bedard • Paula Blackmore-White • Terry Booth • Alison Cross • Devon Bolton • Terry Booth • Devon Budansew • Heather Burkett • Ray DePaul • Rosalynn Dodd • Cindy Drummond • Lee Elliott • Robert Fooks • Derek Fraser • Regan Gibson • Holly Higgins • Chris Hodgson • Dave Hughes • Kate Kusza • Sara Ly • Kevin MacNeill • Deepak Malik • Llewyn McCrea • Shannon McLennan • Andrew Milne • Tristen Milne • Amish Morjaria • Kevin Murphy • Tim Nakamura • Laurie Okunugga • Sandeep Parmar • Stacey Perlin • Houston Peschi • Trinh Pham • Heather Poole • Azza Poplavskaya • Whitney Punchak • Kali Readwin • Jeff Robinson • Jordan Mannas, Senior Analyst, KPMG LLP

“Networking with other fabulous nonprofits is invaluable. We have so much in common and despite the fact that we’re all trying to secure the same funding dollars, there is a real camaraderie and a genuine hope that everyone succeeds. One often feels isolated in the nonprofit world, so it’s nice to see that we’re never really alone in our journey.” - Lisa Dixon-Wells, Dare to Care

“Witnessing the passion and empathy radiating from each and every organization will forever change my perception of our not-for-profits and social ventures. Everyone needs this exposure.” - Jordan Mannas, Senior Analyst, KPMG LLP
Connecting Passion and Purpose. What’s Yours?