



**SOCIAL VENTURE  
PARTNERS  
BOULDER COUNTY**

Strong nonprofits, strong community

# Catapult Impact Report

2021



eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Boulder County



At Social Venture Partners Boulder County (SVP), we believe that strong nonprofits make a strong community. For over two decades, SVP has worked side-by-side with Boulder County nonprofits to create a community where everyone can thrive. By leveraging the experience of our volunteers, SVP provides the resources to help nonprofits make change, move forward, and envision where they're going. We support our volunteers by helping them learn, connect, and contribute their skills and experiences successfully.

What we do:

- Consult and advise with nonprofits
- Educate individuals and organizations
- Develop leadership skills
- Build connections
- Engage individuals in skilled volunteer roles

## Catapult Program

This report relates to SVP's effectiveness in building capacity among its nonprofit participants through its Catapult program. The program makes competitively selected, multi-year investments that build organizational capacity through consulting, education, mentoring, coaching, cash grants, and connecting Partners with nonprofits as volunteers. Nonprofit participants in this program are called Investees.

### BACKGROUND

As a learning organization, SVP seeks to continually assess its progress and improve its performance. In assessing our impact in capacity building, we have prioritized these outcomes:

- Investee satisfaction with SVP
- Value added by SVP
- Impact of capacity gains on organizational and program effectiveness

### METHODOLOGY

The following data collection tools were used to generate this report:

- The Investee online survey generated qualitative information related to Investee satisfaction, and quantitative data related to the value-added of SVP Partners.
- The Most Significant Change Tool generated stories about SVP's impact on organizational effectiveness.

### DATA LIMITATIONS

The data that follows paints a meaningful and important portrait of SVP's impact through the Catapult program. It is nonetheless important to acknowledge several aspects of the research methodology that may impact the data, particularly as it relates to the Investee survey.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Information providing more specific information about these limitations and the measures taken to minimize them is available through SVP.

- Although the information provided by Investees was confidential, there is an inherent bias in surveys administered to grantees by funders. To minimize this bias, SVP administered the survey **after** making renewal decisions and dispersing cash grants.
- The quantitative data related to calculating value added by SVP Partners are estimates by Investees and SVP. There is a degree of judgment in these numbers, and they should be viewed as good faith estimates.
- The data related to increased capacity gain and/or stories of significant change is subjective and was provided by Investees without independent review or verification.

## Key Findings: outcomes + impact

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT RESPONDENTS

Beginning in February 2022, SVP administered tools to gather data on Investee outcomes and received responses from 4 of 4, or 100% of the Investees who had engaged with SVP for at least 12 of the last 18 months.

- One Investee completed the third (and final) year of investment with SVP; one completed the second year of investment with SVP; and two completed or were in the first eighteen (18) months of investment with SVP.
- These Investees received \$51K in supporting cash grants and at least 770 hours consulting support during the investment year evaluated.

### INVESTEE SATISFACTION WITH SVP

Tracking Investee perceptions of SVP is important because of the relationship-intensive nature of the collaboration. SVP's high level of engagement requires a strong foundation of trust. A high degree of Investee satisfaction with SVP relationship is a prerequisite for any meaningful capacity building work.

Overall, 100% of SVP Investees respondents characterized their experience of working with SVP as good (2 of 4), or excellent (2 of 4).

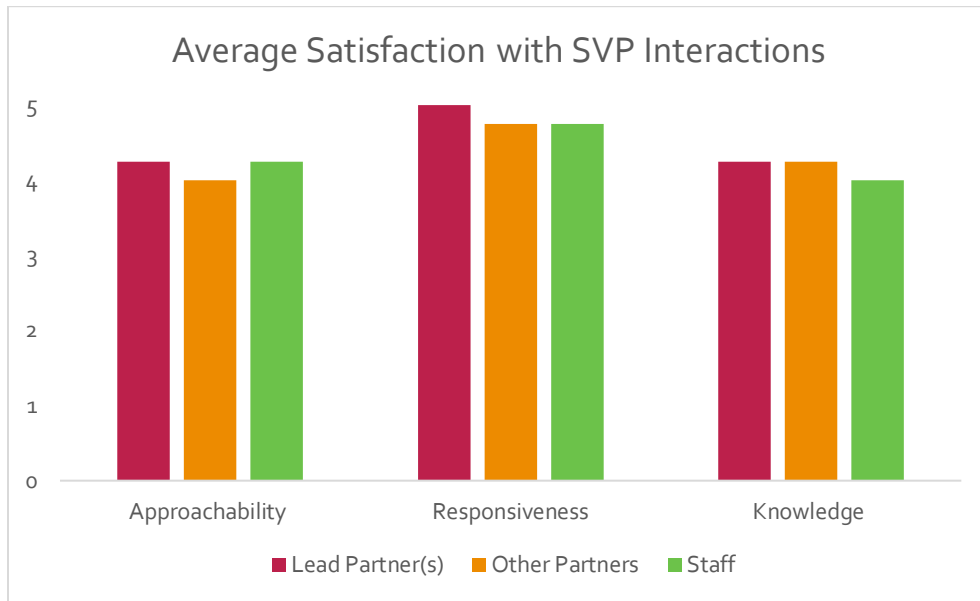
Overall, 100% of SVP Investees characterized their relationship with their Lead Partner(s), and 75% characterized their interactions with other Partners and staff as good to excellent (3, 4, or 5 on a range of 1-5). Satisfaction according to the specific criteria of Approachability, Responsiveness, and Knowledge was as follows:<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Approachability – The Investee staff knows how to contact the Partner/staff/lead; feels comfortable contacting; feels receptiveness to their questions or feedback.

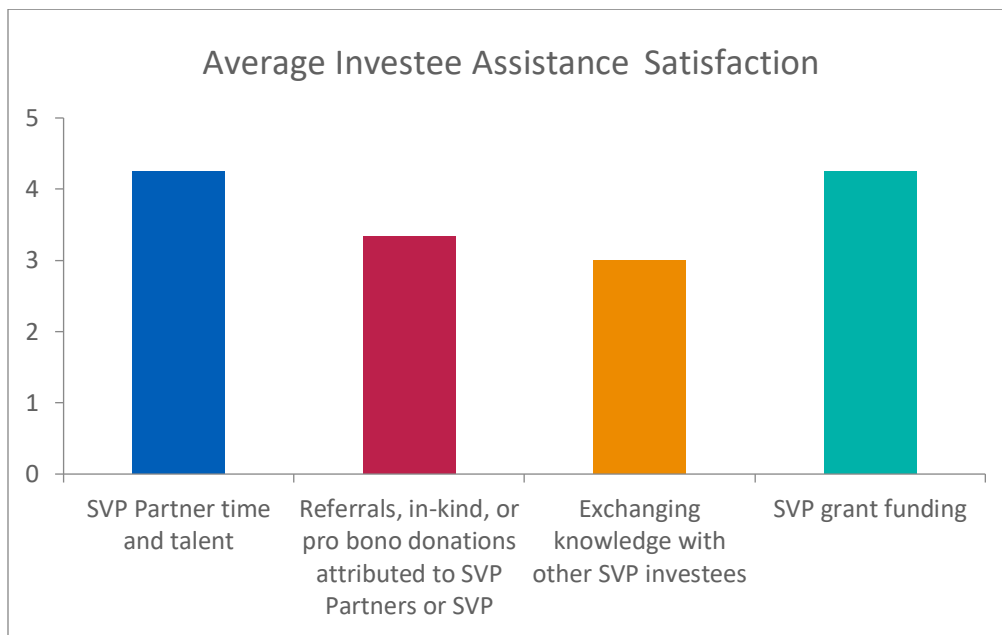
Responsiveness – The Investee staff feels that the Partner/staff/lead replies in a timely way; the response is useful or thoughtful; and that the Partner/staff/lead demonstrated openness to the investee staff's feedback.

Knowledge – The Investee staff feels that the Partner/staff/lead is able to offer resources or ideas in response to their questions or requests for information; and that the Partner/staff/lead reflects understanding of their organization's mission and needs



### SATISFACTION ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT FORMS OF ASSISTANCE

Overall, SVP Investees characterized the four different forms of SVP assistance as valuable to extremely valuable (3, 4, or 5 on a range of 1-5). However, one Investee commented that there were few interactions with other investees this year, due to interruptions to normal business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

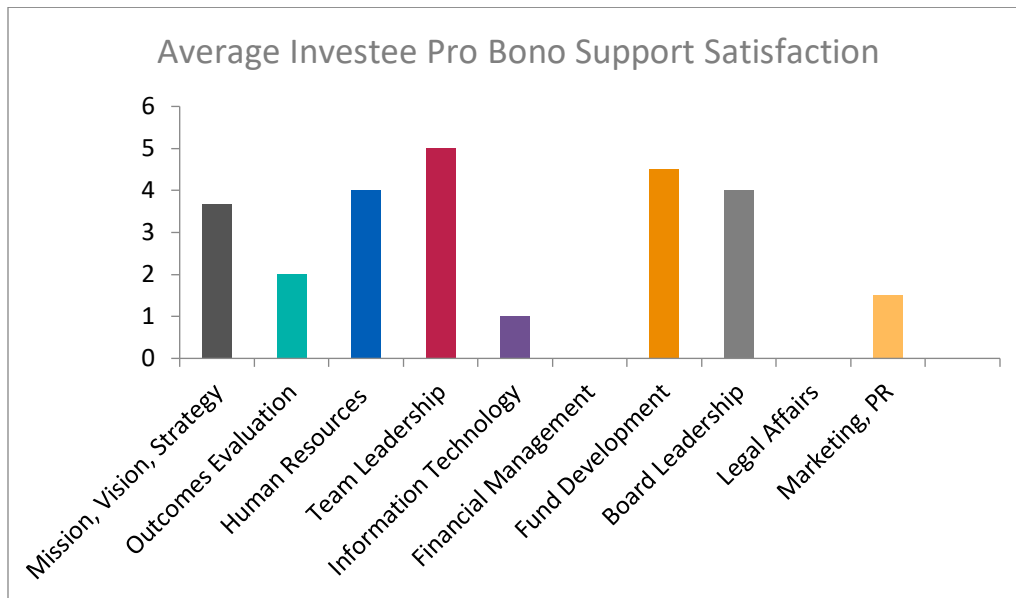


## SATISFACTION WITH PARTNER PRO BONO SUPPORT

SVP works with Investees to identify the areas of capacity and capability it needs to develop, and then provides consulting to strengthen those areas, matching approximately 29 Partners to projects in 2021. SVP asked Investees for their perceptions of value of Partner support for the following types of assistance:

Mission, Vision, Strategy, and Planning  
 Human Resources (staff + volunteer)  
 Information Technology  
 Fund Development/Earned Income  
 Legal Affairs

Outcomes Measurement and Evaluation  
 CEO/ED/Senior Management Team Leadership  
 Financial Management  
 Board Leadership  
 Marketing, Communications, and External Relations



*Note: Each Investee only received support in some of the capacity building areas*

## VALUE OF GENERAL OPERATING GRANTS

SVP asked Investees to respond to the following statement: “We would appreciate any insight into what the general operating grant you received from SVP allowed you to accomplish that you may not have otherwise been able to do.”

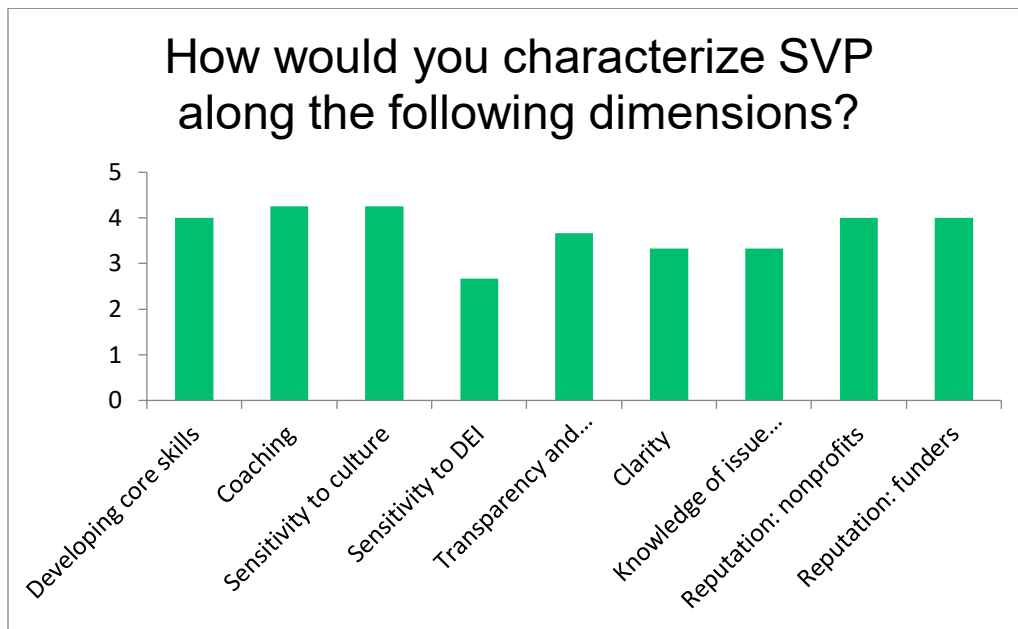
*A bit intangibly, the grant we received from SVP contributed to the largest year of revenue for the organization in history. More tangibly, having this support from SVP allowed us to implement a new and innovative program for our community.*

*The funds have helped us to continue to move forward with our growth and development. We just hired a half time Development Director and SVP funds definitely helped to make that possible.*

## ASSESSMENT OF SVP ALONG KEY DIMENSIONS

SVP Investees rated SVP from Low (2) to Very High (5) on a range of 1-5, on a series of dimensions key to being an effective capacity and capability builder:

- Effectiveness at developing core skills, management practices, strategies, and systems
- Effectiveness at coaching, mentoring, and teaching
- Sensitivity to nonprofit community/culture
- Sensitivity to diversity, equity, inclusiveness, and cultural competence
- Transparency and fairness in grant making decisions
- Clarity in communicating goals and expectations
- Knowledge of your organization's issue areas
- Overall reputation among other nonprofits
- Overall reputation among other funders



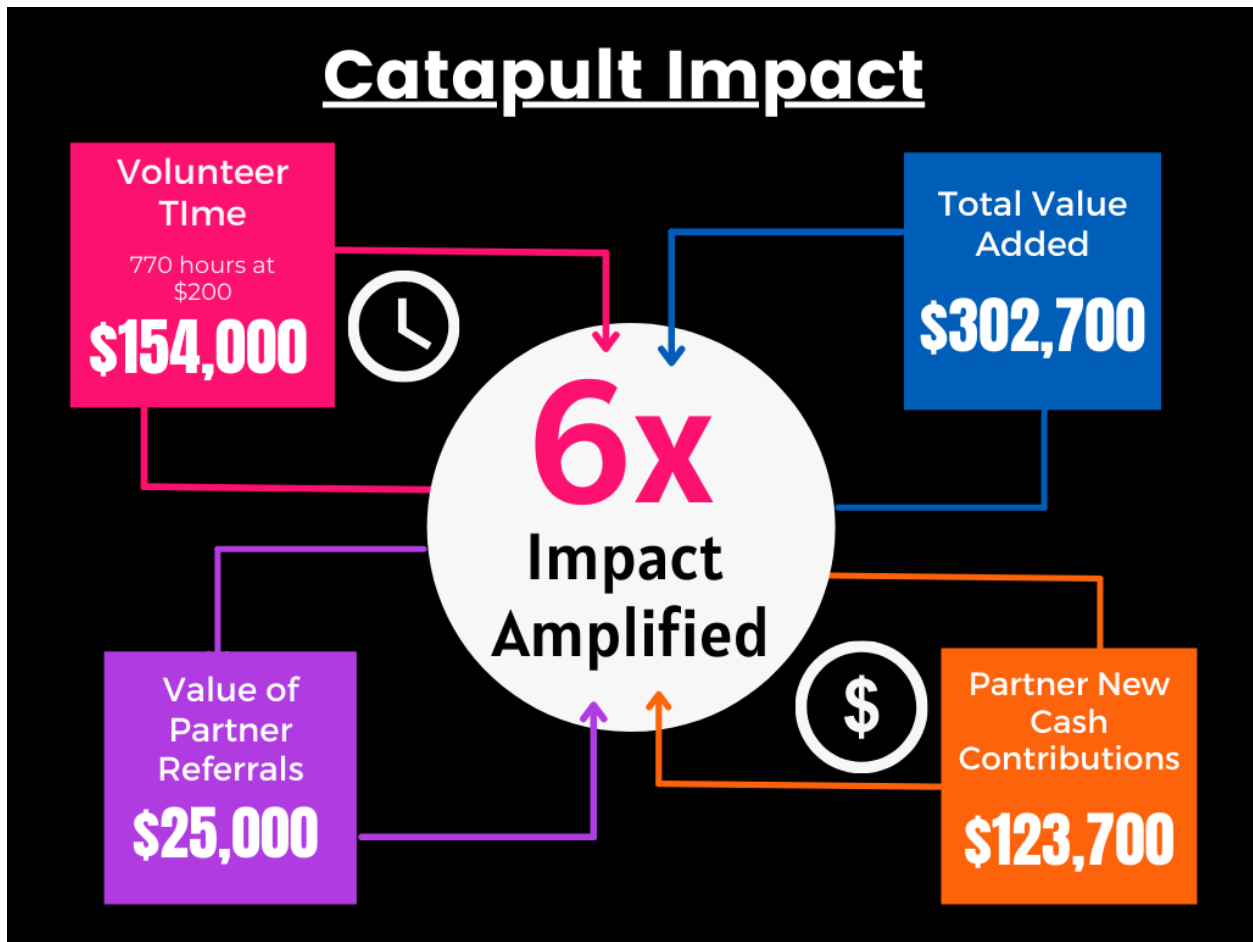
## VALUE ADDED BY SVP PARTNERS

SVP's strategy for building capacity is to provide a complete package of professional-level volunteers (Partners), mentoring, coaching, education, facilitated peer learning, money, and networking opportunities to its Investee organizations.

In fact, the cash grants are only a small portion of the value that Investees gain by being part of SVP. Through the Investee survey, we attempt to quantify the value added by SVP Partners by asking Investees for information about the following:

- Partner volunteer time for strategic volunteer projects<sup>3</sup>.
- New cash contributions from Partners. These are donations made by *individual* SVP Partners (separate from SVP organizational grants).
- Contributions from individual Partner referrals or contracts.

# Catapult Impact



\*The hourly value was calculated using a market-based uniform rate of \$200 per hour. Although market rates vary, we chose a single rate at the low end of the range (\$150-\$600) to maximize ease and reliability of data collection. The hours and other quantitative data related to calculating value added by SVP Partners are estimates by Investees and SVP. There is a degree of judgment in these numbers, and they should be viewed as good faith estimates.

## IMPACT ON PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY

SVP's efforts to strengthen the organizational capacity of its Investees led to significant improvements in their organizational effectiveness and social benefit. Although it is difficult to quantify these social gains, we asked Investees to document stories of a significant change that they experienced in their organizational capacity as a result of their relationship with SVP. Those stories – in the Investees' own words – exemplify the social change that SVP seeks to accomplish.

### Wild Bear Most Significant Change Story By Jill Dreves, Executive Director

Wild Bear Nature Center is at a big growth and transition time. With that comes important communication with the entire organization to continue forward movement. The organization was not completely aligned in a very big decision and clarity was needed in terms of board decision making and management of our capital campaign budget. SVP swooped in and worked with our board, facilitated our mini retreat, and guided our decisions to move forward with our building project. This was a very, very important step for our organization to take and [SVP Partners] Corky, Karin and Barb were instrumental in helping us do this with clear communication. We still have work to do on this, but we definitely made progress. On top of that, [Lead Partner] Ellen has been an excellent support to listen and guide with some of the personal obstacles and growth to handle this difficult situation. Thank you, SVP!





## Impact on Education Most Significant Change Story

By Allison Billings, Executive Director

Since we were selected as a [Catapult] investee two years ago, getting some strategic planning assistance has been on the top of my list. There were some fits and starts to developing a strategic plan for our organization over the first 18 months, and the constant uncertainty of the pandemic made it hard to think very far ahead. However, I'm really pleased to report that our Board of Directors just adopted some strategic priorities for the organization, and the staff has worked hard to create a work plan and 22-23 budget driven by those priorities.

SVP partner Mark Bouzek stepped in willingly to facilitate the Board conversations needed to reach this milestone, and it is the most impactful work that SVP has facilitated for us this year. I was beginning to give up hope that we'd be able to move our strategic planning work forward as our planned retreat came in the wake of the Marshall Fire and amidst the January Omicron surge. We delayed our retreat, and Mark pivoted quickly to facilitate a virtual conversation at our planned in-person meeting. In all, the work got done! Now that we have our strategic priorities set, we have been able to set plans in motion to expand our work, grow our staff team and improve our programmatic investments.

These strategic priorities will be useful for years to come, so we are grateful to SVP for the support getting our Strategic Plan pulled together this year.



# SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS BOULDER COUNTY

Social Venture Partners Boulder County

3701 Arapahoe Ave #117

Boulder, CO 80303

[svpbouldercounty.org](http://svpbouldercounty.org)

303.840.0165



## STRONG NONPROFITS STRONG COMMUNITY.

At Social Venture Partners Boulder County (SVP), we believe that strong nonprofits make for a strong community. For over two decades, SVP has worked side-by-side with Boulder County nonprofits to create a community where everyone can thrive. By leveraging the experience of our Partner members, SVP provides the resources to help non-profits make change, move forward, and envision where they're going. Quite simply, SVP is committed to making Boulder County nonprofits stronger and more effective.

