

2009 Fellows Program

About SVP Boulder County

Social Venture Partners Boulder County (SVP) <http://www.svpbouldercounty.org> is a network of accomplished individuals who combine their passion for philanthropy with their professional, volunteer, or life skills in order to aid in the success of local non-profits experiencing growth. Our member partners improve the capacity and sustainability of investees (grantees) through volunteer consulting projects in 10 core areas of organizational infrastructure. Furthermore, SVP informs, inspires, and prepares partners to have a greater philanthropic impact. SVP is a fund of The Community Foundation and is a member of Social Venture Partners International, the federation of 25 SVP chapters across North America and Japan. One of the key characteristics of such a strong, healthy network of people is to have as diverse a group of partners as possible, bringing a range of backgrounds, perspectives, and cultures to the organization.

About the Fellows Program

In that spirit, SVP announces a Fellowship opening for community-minded individuals working and/or living in Boulder County. The intent is to open SVP's doors to people that couldn't otherwise make the required financial commitment of \$5,000 per year and who will add value to, and get personal value from, the work and conversations within SVP. Fellows contribute significantly to the success of our capacity building work with non-profits. We hope this Fellowship is another way of widening and strengthening our connection to the community!

We will award one new Fellowship in August, 2009, and encourage people of all backgrounds, races, and classes to apply that meet the following criteria:

- You have a historical or emerging desire to make a significant contribution to your community.
- You see yourself continuing and growing that commitment in the years ahead.
- You have experience and knowledge in at least 1 of 10 core infrastructure areas that you are willing to share with non-profits as a volunteer consultant.
- You are someone that will bring a different and diverse set of perspectives and experiences.
- You would not otherwise have the financial means to join SVP.
- You live and/or work in Boulder County.
- You are at least 21 years of age.

Fellows will participate fully and be involved in SVP just like any other partner.* Participation in SVP would include involvement in a grant committee, participating as a volunteer, and attending partner meetings. We ask for an interim and final report on the Fellow's experiences and recommendations, and expect a minimum average contribution of 90 hours per year. Fellows may have either for-profit or non-profit experience.

** The only exception is that Fellows may not vote on matters of policy, such as the amount of annual dues, or serve on the Executive Committee.*

Involvement Opportunities

This is a unique opportunity to receive hands-on learning experience on grant giving, community issues, and how to work strategically with a non-profit. The SVP experience is centered on our community of like-minded professionals from Boulder County. Involved partners not only help us grow and add value to non-profits, they also learn from each other in our team environment. As a Fellow you will have the opportunity to volunteer your time in the following ways:

Portfolio Grants Committee: SVP runs one primary grant cycle lasting five months during the spring of each year. The PGC is responsible for educating themselves on community issues, reviewing proposals, conducting site visits, ensuring due diligence and making a final recommendation to the partnership. These teams usually consist of 4-7 partners. Committee members gain an understanding of the local nonprofit sector, insight into issue areas, learn how to evaluate grant proposals and non-profits, and how to make group funding decisions.

Volunteer Teams: Once a non-profit becomes an SVP investee, the engagement process starts with the volunteer team. Partners form volunteer teams to work with each of our investees. The team focuses on supporting the non-profit in capacity building projects. Fellows have a choice in deciding which projects they would like to work on during the year. A current list is available on our website: (<http://www.svpbouldercounty.org/investees>).

Partner Education Events and Socials: SVP recognizes the importance of supporting the personal growth of our partners through partner education events and strengthening our network through socials. We hold various partner events centered on community issues and philanthropy as well as provide opportunities for partners to meet informally and connect. As a Fellow you are encouraged to attend as many events as your schedule permits! Or, you may want to organize an educational event for the partnership.

Application Process

This will be an open process, publicized around the community. You must be at least 21 years old to apply. Please email a two-page document to SVP that addresses the following questions:

1. Please provide your name, contact information, current professional or career status, and any other key elements of your background that you think are relevant.
2. In what ways could you add value to a volunteer team supporting the capacity of a local non-profit, such as with expertise in fundraising, volunteer program development, technology, legal affairs, human resources, community organizing, other ways?
3. Why do you want to be a part of SVP?
4. What does being a member of your community mean to you? To what communities do you belong?
5. What does it mean to "give"?
6. What are your core values and the values of those groups you are a part of?
7. Are you able to commit at least 90 hrs/year (average 7.5/month) during your fellowship?

The deadline for applications is Friday, July 31, 2009, at 12:00 p.m. If you are a finalist, you will be asked to submit references. An internal committee will review all applications, interview finalists, and notify Fellows of their acceptance by August 31, 2009. Please direct questions to Jennie Arbogash at jennie@svpbouldercounty.org or via phone 303-442-0436, ext. 114.

Email applications so they are received no later than Friday, July 31 at 12:00 p.m. to:
Jennie Arbogash, SVP Executive Director jennie@svpbouldercounty.org