

For more information contact:
David Sawyer, SVP 503.274.9556
Kathrin Larson, Maxwell PR 503.231.3086

Social Venture Partners Donates \$40,000 to Metropolitan Family Service

PORTLAND, Ore. – March 24, 2003 – Marking its first 2003 contribution, Social Venture Partners Portland (SVP), a group of professionals and business people who invest time and resources to help area nonprofits, today announced a \$40,000 donation to local nonprofit Metropolitan Family Service (MFS).

The one-year grant, which may be renewed for up to four additional years, also comes with hands-on business counsel and expertise donated by some of the area's top business professionals, expected to value more than \$100,000 over the term of the grant.

The donation brings to \$240,000 the total amount SVP has invested in area nonprofits, in addition to hands-on consulting time and expertise valued at over \$200,000 per year.

SVP's financial contribution will help MFS fund its new bilingual "Make Parenting a Pleasure" program which will educate and support young parents, and help them create stronger children and families. Through donations of time and business expertise, SVP members also will help the organization strengthen its operational efficiency and effectiveness, and explore new revenue generating opportunities.

"What sets SVP apart is its unique combination of financial support and long-term personal involvement to ensure the nonprofits it supports succeed," said Krista Larson, Executive Director of Metropolitan Family Service. "We're continually looking for ways to ensure our programs are targeted, cost-efficient and results-focused. SVP will help us do just that."

SVP goes beyond traditional cash-only giving with a partnership approach that emphasizes hands-on involvement and citizen problem solving. Partners contribute money, which is collectively donated to local nonprofits, and then actively nurture their "investment" by volunteering hands-on guidance and expertise. The group is dedicated to nurturing a new generation of donors and teaching them the value of giving effectively to results-based community programs.

"Thanks to the support of our new members, we were able to accelerate our giving cycle and make this donation much sooner than we originally thought possible," said David Sawyer, Executive Director of Social Venture Partners. "MFS is a leader in the nonprofit community, and our Partners are excited to work with this forward-looking organization. MFS builds community capacity. SVP builds organizational capacity. We're kindred spirits."

For more than 50 years Metropolitan Family Service has been providing services as well as access to resources through community-based programs for children, families, older adults, and people with disabilities. MFS works primarily with individuals who are economically challenged throughout the greater Portland area.

Since Dec. 2001, SVP has donated \$200,000 to local nonprofits Morrison Child and Family Services, Portland Relief Nursery, and Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, and matched the dollars with more than \$200,000 in hands-on consulting and in-kind contributions. During the past six months, the group has grown to more than 100 individuals from industries ranging from business and technology to education and community organizations.

SVP is actively seeking new Partners. For every ten Partners added, SVP is able to support one more nonprofit in need in our community. For more information on SVP, call 503.222.0114 or visit www.svpportland.org.

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