



Social Venture Partners Portland Investee Final Report

Investee: Children's Relief Nursery
Investee Contact: Chris Otis, Executive Director
SVPP Lead Partner: Laura Finney
Investment Period: Q1 '02 – Q3 '04
Annual Operating Budget: \$1.4M
Final Report

Investee Mission and Vision:

The Children's Relief Nursery (CRN) is a community-based child abuse and neglect prevention organization that supports children and families by providing early intervention and family support services at no cost to high-risk families with children from birth through three years of age. Their vision is to operate three leading-edge, research-based relief nurseries in Portland by 2008.

SVPP Investment and Objective:

SVPP awarded Children's Relief Nursery a total of \$117,600 between 2001 and 2004. In general, our grants were intended to enable them to grow and improve their infrastructure and ultimately their program capacity. Our volunteers were primarily dedicated to IT and business system projects with long term benefits without requiring ongoing support.

Investment Accomplishments:

Directly as a result of our volunteer efforts and funding, CRN was able to:

- Move into their new 16,500 sq. ft. facility in St. Johns on time and on budget in Oct. '02.
- Install a network server and deploy PCs with common and standardized operating systems and software.
- Deploy email and post a web site
- Bring all accounting and bookkeeping functions in house
- Deploy the Raiser's Edge business software package for donor management
- Staff and stock a kitchen to supply USDA subsidized meals.
- Implement a marketing communication plan and collateral including a logo, brochures, and an improved web site.

Additionally, various SVPP volunteers were able to positively impact the organization through via participation as a board member, on the Programs Committee - which focused on staff development and outcomes measurement, and on the Business Development Committee - which focused on finding new, creative sources of funding.



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Investment Impact*:

Category	
SVPP Direct Financial Investments (Grants)	\$117,600
Donations from partners, friends, and businesses introduced by SVPP	\$66,500
Value of volunteer hours from partners and friends	\$46,100
Projected Operational impact from SVPP-supported Database and Technology Projects	\$25,000
Total	\$265,305

* Direct Investment is the actual cash transferred to the investee. Total Impact also includes donations from partners and friends, the value of volunteer hours, and the operational impact (e.g. cost savings, new capabilities) from SVPP projects. The value of volunteer hours is calculated using from \$10/hour to \$120/hour depending on the type of work performed. Projected operational impact is a projection of the financial cost savings and the financial impact of the new capabilities of the SVPP-supported projects over the first 3 years of their implementation.

Volunteer Partners and Their Key Contributions:

Sharon Barthmaier: Coordinated the CRN “Baby Shower” program which brought in needed supplies for CRN clients from community organizations and individuals.

Sarah Bernard: Brought the Nursery’s accounting system up on QuickBooks and performed monthly closing tasks in 2002 and 2003.

Laura Finney: Lead Partner in charge of keeping things going and well documented.

Sandy Grubb: Volunteered in the therapeutic classroom and the respite care program.

Bob McLaurin: Responsible for bringing up a network at CRN, deploying PCs, establishing email capability, and standardizing the software. Completed a major analysis of client tracking systems.

Katherine Oberholtzer: Conducted a needs assessment and an implementation strategy for professional clinical supervision for the CRN staff.

Dave Preston: Helped develop the marketing messages and collateral and collaborated on the development of the improved web site.

Boyce Smith: Acted as a facilities construction project manager. Coordinated the schedule and facilitated communication between the Nursery staff and the various contractors. Also wrote a facilities manual letting the ED know the who’s and what’s of facilities maintenance.

Susan Studd: Provided documentation and consulting on staffing and performance appraisals:

Jon Ulsh: Member of the CRN Board



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Summary

CRN was a wonderful first investee for SVPP and its volunteers. Its mission was to intervene on behalf of abused and neglected children. It was also a new, very entrepreneurial non-profit energetically applying recognized and proven methods to solve a huge local problem, with intentions to leverage their experience into future capacity growth. These two aspects fit squarely within the mission and focus of our own, young organization and its first investment committee.

It was also a worthwhile relationship because the needs of CRN fit nicely within many of our Partners' interests and skills, i.e. IT systems, business processes, marketing communication, and accounting. We were very fortunate to find an investee with so much potential and such an appetite for anything and everything we could offer.

Today CRN is building strength and momentum toward opening additional nurseries in the metropolitan area. Their accounting system, donor management system and IT infrastructure are operational and effective in a large part thanks to the effort of our funds and volunteer team.
