

The Philanthropic Landscape

The Santa Barbara Foundation champions philanthropy with inspiring results. It is pleased to facilitate philanthropy in all its forms. The Foundation steps forward with financial advice and resources for a range of activities, from establishing a variety of funds under its umbrella, housing endowments for local nonprofits, to supporting philanthropic enterprises channeled through other nonprofits.

Social Venture Partners Santa Barbara. Back row, from left: Neil Dipaola, Paul Gertman, Marianne Gertman, Susan Case, Foundation President & CEO, Ron Gallo, and John Glanville. Front row from left: Gary Becker and Claude Case.



Social Venture Partners, Santa Barbara

One of the most recent philanthropic groups to emerge here is the Social Venture Partners of Santa Barbara (SVPSB). These philanthropists plan to share their know-how, creativity, and time, as well as their capital, for the benefit of nonprofits. While engaged in their good works, they also hope to educate each other to be knowledgeable, effective and engaged philanthropists.

This type of giving, known as venture philanthropy, promises a marriage between the brains and best practices of the business world, and nonprofits for whom the bottom line is a social benefit (like reducing teen violence, saving open spaces or helping those in need). As in any good marriage, both sides benefit.

SVP Santa Barbara received its official charter in October. Since then the group has attracted more than a dozen donor units and is well on the way to bring in more. Partners are discussing creative methods of collaborating with local foundations so that all participants can increase their capacity to serve the community. They're also honing their areas of interest. Given the economic climate, critical needs such as food and shelter are uppermost. Also at the top of their list: repairing the frayed edges of the safety net and dealing with the social problems that result from stressed families, such as domestic violence.

The SVP idea has blossomed into 25 chapters throughout North America and beyond. In 2001, representatives from the 17 existing SVPs decided to become a federation. SVP International was born. The federation allows SVPs to share a mission, brand and program, as well as best practices, but to operate independently of one another.

For more information, please contact Tanya Gonzales, Vice President of Development for the Santa Barbara Foundation, at 963-1873, ext. 117. Additional information is available at svpsb.org.

Inspiring Youth

Katherine Harvey Fellows Program

We're proud of much of the Foundation's work, but our admiration for the Katherine Harvey Fellows program deeply illustrates all that philanthropy can do. Created in 2000, it's a forum for young professionals to experience close up the workings of a community foundation, including fundraising and grant making. This opportunity has sown the seeds for future leadership in philanthropy, even to the point of nurturing future trustees of our own Foundation. The individuals selected to become part of the Katherine Harvey Fellows program have become stewards of their own enterprise: in the class of 2006-07, participants launched a model program for teens to impact their community through philanthropy, Youth Making Change (YMC). It provides grants to youth-led projects, addressing community issues and challenges directly affecting young people. Working through the Fund for Santa Barbara, YMC's grant-making committee (consisting of youth ages 13-18) elected to award a total of \$10,000 to five venues of opportunity for youth—showcases for musical and sports talent, a teen center, day camps in Carpinteria and at the Cesar Chavez Charter School.

YMC's coordinator, Cristina Gonzalez, observes that youth are often left out of discussions and decision-making. "It's exciting to see young people have the power to determine where our community's resources should go to address the problems facing young people in Santa Barbara." It's also exciting to witness the power of involvement at an early age.

For additional information, please visit fundforsantabarbara.org.