

# Social Venture Partners Pittsburgh

## Executive Summary

### **Community Partner**

Lou Camerlengo

Leigh Solomon Pugliano

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### **Student Consulting Team**

Neil Desai

Caitlyn Low

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## **Background**

Social Venture Partners Pittsburgh (SVP Pittsburgh) is a Nonprofit that offers local Nonprofits access to a network of philanthropists and local businesspeople who voluntarily provide their expertise, skills, and finances. SVP Pittsburgh's mission is to build "powerful relationships between innovative Nonprofits and engaged philanthropists to tackle our community's biggest challenges". Their flagship program is the biannual Full Circle Accelerator, in which a small cohort of local Nonprofits are paired with Partners who serve as mentors. The program combines consulting, workshops, seminars, networking, and a pitch event. SVP Pittsburgh and its Partners also offers ad hoc consulting to local Nonprofits. SVP Pittsburgh has very limited technical infrastructure, using Google Drive for most of their needs.

## **Project Description**

### **Project Opportunity**

The problem sphere that we decided to tackle related to how the two client groups, Partners and Nonprofits, came together. The matching process for the Full Circle Accelerator is manual. An informal collection of data on the needs of the Nonprofits is obtained, then in a large group meeting Partners essentially pick which Nonprofit they think is the best fit. Leigh also does some manual matching herself, based on data from Partner skill set surveys distributed a few years ago. Needless to say, the current matching process is very inefficient. Lou and Leigh indicated to us that this problem sphere was of high priority to SVP Pittsburgh, and that investigating a way to organize data on both Partners and Nonprofit clients (that could then be used for the matching process) could help them greatly. The lack of a proper database solution for information management represented an additional roadblock for this problem sphere.

### **Project Vision**

Our team planned to develop a web application that would assist Leigh and the SVP Pittsburgh executive board in finding Partners and Nonprofits that are good matches for each other. In order to accomplish this, we identified that we would also need to set up a database solution for SVP Pittsburgh that would replace their Google Drive as the hub for information on Partners and Nonprofits. The web application would thus be the primary hub for SVP Pittsburgh's administration—allowing them to both view/update data and helping them match Partners

and Nonprofits. Our project would give Partners and Nonprofits the ability to create profiles and list skills that they have/desire. It would also give Partners the ability to both browse through said profiles in order to find Nonprofits that excite them and also provide an easy starting point for Partners to connect with each other.

## **Project Outcomes**

Our most important technology outcome is that we built a C# ASP.NET MVC web application with an Azure SQL database, deployed on Microsoft Azure. The application also has login/authentication and matching functionality. It meets the client's need to better store/manage information as well as their need to make the process of matching Partners and Nonprofits easier. One process outcome was documenting and prioritizing the features list of the application early on, and in close conjunction with the client. Another people/process outcome was having discussions with the client early on to determine who would be responsible for managing the application from an administrative standpoint and who would be responsible for maintaining it from a technical standpoint. This allowed us to build the project with sustainability and transition in mind.

## **Project Deliverables**

Included in the deliverables is our git repository that contains our web application and our Google Drive folder that contains our preliminary research on SVP Pittsburgh, project proposal, project plan, sprint reports, client meeting notes, executive summary, logo and project information, and final report.

## **Recommendations**

To sustain their progress, the first recommendation we gave the client is to conduct a new survey of their Partners and Nonprofits to get up-to-date information to populate the application database. For their matching process, they had previously been relying on a survey of Partner skills that was a few years out of date. We also recommended that in the future, applications for new Partners and Nonprofits be filled out through the new web application instead of through physical forms. This way, the application database would automatically be updated. A future IS student team could carry the project forward by implementing relationships between Partners and Nonprofits. We wanted to implement this so that SVP Pittsburgh could keep track of current and past mentor-mentee matches, but did not have enough time. The future IS student team could also extend our data hub into an analytics center with additional dashboards to increase the SVP Pittsburgh administrator's capacity.

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## **Student Consulting Team**

**Neil Desai** served as Project Manager and Risk Lead. He is a fourth-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Human-Computer Interaction.

**Caitlyn Low** served as QA Manager and Documentation Lead. She is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems.

**David Zhang** served as Client Relations Manager and Transition Lead. He is a fourth-year student majoring in Information Systems with an additional major in Computer Science.