Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits Investment in Recovery

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SV CN) is proud to announce a new strategic initiative to develop, test, and deploy technology systems to support the Silicon Valley nonprofit sector. Our vision is to develop a responsive model for a diverse network of support that can help organizations recover in the next several years and thrive emerging. Over the next three years, we will be piloting programs that will streamline access to information and resources, facilitate communication, and create networks for mutual assistance across the nonprofit ecosystem.

The pandemic exposed some of the deepest challenges our sector faces, from crisis response to provide the most critical needs for our communities, to sustaining operations and healthy infrastructure, to recruiting and retaining staff through a period of tremendous burnout. Yet, it also showed us what is possible when we come together to innovate and collaborate. As a sector, we stood up new programs, scaled existing services, and created new partnerships that increased our collective impact. SV CN was fortunate to be in a position to support organizations across the Silicon Valley as they responded to the moment. We hope to increase our capacity to play a supportive and connecting role to the sector by utilizing technology to respond to longstanding nonprofit needs and challenges.

Some examples of resources we will be assessing over the next three years are:

- A Slack workspace where nonprofit staff can connect directly to ask questions, share resources, and be in community;
- Resource libraries on our website with easy access to vetted sample policies, templates, and more;
- A volunteer platform where nonprofits can post opportunities and volunteers can sign up with them directly;
- A business directory where you can find consultants and vendors to support your business needs.

The impetus for this project came from surveying and conducting focus groups to better understand the landscape. As part of our organization’s philosophy of being effective and responsive to your needs, we will continue to solicit input
from our nonprofit community as we build and pilot these programs and we will also be sharing our progress and findings with the nonprofit community.

This work would not be possible without the generous support of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which is providing SVCN with a three-year, $600,000 investment in support of this project. Thank you to the Knight Foundation for believing in our vision of what is possible for our sector and your commitment to supporting the nonprofit ecosystem here in Silicon Valley.