



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Brad Brown, Social Venture Partners, (612) 676-2630 – office, (612) 378-2914 – fax, brad.brown1@comcast.net, www.svpmn.org

Minneapolis, MN, December 15, 2008 — Social Venture Partners Minnesota announced today that they have selected Baby's Space as their newest social venture investment. Baby's Space will receive a \$25,000 grant and assistance with organizational capacity building from Social Venture Partners.

Baby's Space operates a nationally accredited childcare facility and provides an innovative early childhood development model for use by centers across the United States. Fundamental to the model is being responsive to the needs of the children's community, including helping parents faced with the stresses of poverty. The key elements of the Baby's Space model are:

- Museum-inspired learning environments calibrated to the developmental needs of infants, toddlers, preschool children and their caregivers.
- Responsive teachers who receive specially designed training, coaching, and mentoring.
- Parental engagement that provides the building blocks for understanding how children grow and learn

Baby's Space provides childcare from the baby's point of view. Learning environments and curriculum are constructed to meet the developmental needs of young children using the design principles that focus on relationships, learning, and exploration. Throughout the program, curriculum focuses on communication, building relationships, emotional expression and regulation, and problem solving through play and discovery. Recent testing of 4, 5, and 6 year-olds enrolled with Baby's Space showed that every child's academic performance was at age appropriate levels.

Al Fan, co-chair of Social Venture Partner's investment committee, observed about Baby's Space founder and CEO, Dr. Terrie Rose, "Terrie combines an academic's command of the most current research in early childhood development with the energy and vision of an entrepreneur. We are excited to have Baby's Space join our portfolio as our first investment in the early childhood space." The Ashoka Foundation, an international organization that seeks out and supports innovative social entrepreneurs, recently selected Dr. Rose as an Ashoka Fellow. Social Venture Partners cite several reasons for their selection of Baby's Space:

- It incorporates leading edge, research-based child development practices into its programs.
- It adapts its practices to the culture of the communities it serves.
- The competence, passion, and expertise of the founder and CEO.
- The clarity of its vision and plans to take its model to scale.

Seeing through the eyes of babies allows communities to build responsive and effective early care and education programs, funding mechanisms, and policies necessary to ensure the success of all children.

Social Venture Partners Minnesota is an engaged philanthropy organization that invests its members' charitable dollars and expertise in innovative organizations serving 'at risk' children and youth. Its members, business people and professionals, use their skills to assist social entrepreneurs who are finding better ways to solve social problems.