

Four Pillars of Charity and Philanthropy

-Third Pillar: Economic Freedom – Entrepreneurship, Business & Commerce -

An Essay by Stephen A Batman

December 3, 2025

SVB Interests makes charitable and philanthropic grants based on alignment with its four pillars

- Third Pillar: Economic Freedom: Entrepreneurship, Business & Commerce -

"The purpose of entrepreneurship and business is to improve other people's lives," says Stephen Batman, co-founder of SVB Interests. "Organizations that efficiently and profitably deliver better products and services that improve lives and solve needs will prosper. Those that do not will die."

One of the most compassionate activities any citizen can engage in for the betterment of humanity is to become an entrepreneur or a technical, service, or management expert dedicated to the formation and growth of a business. The benefits of such actions are numerous: create satisfying jobs and careers for employees that lead to personal dignity and financial independence, produce goods and services desirable by others who willingly exchange the value of their labor for those services and products, and create profits that accumulate as capital for investment in transformative innovations that improve more lives.

It is a bedrock of our nature to help others, provide for their needs, and remove their discomfort and pain by providing them access to the goods they need and desire. It is also in our nature to help ourselves and improve our lives by pursuing excellence, adventure, and wealth creation. Business, entrepreneurship, and commercial enterprise, aka "capitalism," are the only economic and social activities that simultaneously improve the lives of consumers and producers. Consequently, most nations have adopted commercial and entrepreneurial societies, thereby virtually eliminating extreme poverty worldwide.

The vision, energy, and risk-taking courage of entrepreneurial men and women in starting and growing businesses have created transformative products and services that were never imagined a few decades ago. As a result, the world is much better for their magnificent endeavors. Therefore, we must celebrate and embrace businesspersons and entrepreneurs and never demean them. They are vital to the economic and psychological health of the world. And we must encourage the nation's young people to courageously pursue an entrepreneur's adventure, not just for its monetary benefits but for the general good that comes from the creative act and the good it engenders for others.

SVB Charities makes grants to organizations that fiercely advocate for public policies that encourage free and open markets, entrepreneurship, innovation, capitalism, and economically free societies.