

Social Investment Partners
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August 29, 2019

Social Investment Partners supports Chance for Children in expanding its “Study Voucher” program nationwide

Social Investment Partners (“SIP”), together with Japan Venture Philanthropy Fund (“JVPF”), is pleased to provide a grant of 45 million yen and management support over the next three years to Chance for Children (“CFC”).

CFC originally started as a project to fight against children’s poverty in 2009. The Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 robbed many children in the area of opportunities to study, and grow artistic and athletic talent. In 2011, CFC began to provide “Study Vouchers” to those students with financial needs affected by the Earthquake. Since then, CFC has further expanded its program to provide “Study Vouchers” to children from lower-income households in other parts of Japan to enable students from lower-income households to receive after-school education and participate in arts and sports programs. More than 2,000 students have received “Study Vouchers” financed by donations from individuals and corporations, with a further 100,000 students receiving “Study Vouchers” from municipal governments through programs run by CFC.

Lower-income households tend to spend less on out-of-school educational activities (i.e. tutoring schools, private lessons, arts and sports programs) for their children. This results in significant disparities in academic and other growth opportunities for children and perpetuates financial disadvantage over generations. CFC believes that removing the disparity in access to after-school educational programs will help to break this vicious cycle and bring a brighter future to the children and our society. “Study Vouchers” can be redeemed by most after-school programs that students wish to join but cannot be used to buy groceries or services, providing freedom of choice to students and ensuring that the financial aid benefits the students. With support from SIP/JVPF, CFC aims to accelerate the expansion of its “Study Vouchers” program across Japan.

CFC’s mission closely parallels SIP’s focus on education and youth employment. Through extensive due-diligence and business planning, SIP is confident that partnership with CFC will deliver a tangible social impact. JVPF’s financial support consists of a grant of 45 million yen over a period of 3 years to be used mainly to build and expand its organization in critical areas such as fund raising and government program development. Through its managerial support, SIP will engage its pro-bono partners to develop a detailed expansion strategy and marketing strategy to cultivate partnerships with municipal governments.

Comment from Sakae Suzuki, Representative Director and CEO of SIP

CFC’s unique voucher program is well-designed to provide pin-point financial aid programs to students in need, while avoiding any possible stigma associated with receiving financial aid. We are excited to join hands with CFC to reach out to students in lower-income households, and provide equal educational opportunity.

<Summary of the organizations to be supported>

Chance for Children, a Public Interest Incorporated Association
<Address> 3F 6-56-17 Kameido, Koto-ku, Tokyo

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<Representative Directors> Yusuke Imai, Satoshi Okuno
<Founding date> June 2011
<URL> <https://fcf.or.jp/english/>
<Business description> Provides “Study Vouchers” that can be redeemed for use in out-of-school educational institutions

Social Investment Partners, a General Incorporated Association

Founded in November 2012 with the purpose of advising and supporting organizations with social mission to contribute to society while also being sustainable as a business. It was founded by specialists in business investment development together with partners experienced in social business support. They work together with pro bono partners who support the purpose of the organization, and provide continuous specialized management support, with a 3 to 5-year mid to long-term view.

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<Representative Directors> Sakae Suzuki, Daisuke Takatsuki (info@sipartners.org)
<URL> www.sipartners.org
<Pro bono partners>
Clifford Chance (Gaikokuho Kyodo Jigyo): Legal advice
Bain & Company Japan, Incorporated: Strategic consulting
VOX Global Japan K.K.: Communication consulting
Ernst & Young, Finance, tax and accounting

Japan Venture Philanthropy Foundation

The first full-scale Japanese venture philanthropy (VP) foundation established in April 2013 to support and sustainably develop organizations specializing in social businesses, Japan Venture Philanthropy Foundation is co-operated by Social Investment Partners and The Nippon Foundation (located in Minato-ku, Tokyo, Chairperson: Yohei Sasakawa).

<U R L> www.jvpf.jp/

About The Nippon Foundation

A Public Interest Incorporated Foundation founded in 1962, The Nippon Foundation is financed by the proceeds of the Boat Race with the purpose of supporting public interest activities within Japan and overseas. The main 3 fields supported are activities of social welfare, education, and culture, activities concerning seas and ships, and overseas humanitarian activities as well as personnel training. They also focus on fostering the NPO sector in Japan generally, promoting a “donating” culture, propelling SCR activities of corporations, etc.

<URL> www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/

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