



Introducing the IMPACT Innovation Fund

IMPACT Silver Spring is committed to building a thriving, multicultural community. We are excited to launch the IMPACT Innovation Fund, a new opportunity for community members to invest in continued innovation in addressing the challenges of a diverse community. The Fund has been established as a challenge from a generous donor who contributed \$20,000—IMPACT seeks to match that amount through the Fund in its inaugural year.

The purpose of the IMPACT Innovation Fund is to:

- Provide IMPACT the time and space to experiment and test out new ideas in the community
- Provide mini-grants to groups of IMPACT network members for small and collaborative innovation projects
- Give investors an opportunity to participate in IMPACT’s “action research” innovation process, learning about real-time challenges in the community and how IMPACT Silver Spring responds to them

Opportunities for Investors

Biannual innovation breakfasts for exchange. Investors will learn about the innovations of the previous months and participate in discussing major questions or challenges facing the Silver Spring community.

Selecting mini-grant recipients. When enough funds are raised, investors can help review and select winners.

Participation in the breakfasts and in the mini-grants process is not mandatory; investors can choose to simply provide funds.

Giving to the Innovation Fund

Gifts of any size are welcome. We seek diverse investors, and all will be treated equally regardless of investment size.

Outcomes will emerge and will not be predetermined. In our experience, seeking preferred outcomes hinders innovation. We ask investors to be open to this approach.

Upcoming Innovation Breakfast

Prospective investors are invited to attend the next innovation breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2010.

Examples of Recent Innovations

Our partners at the Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services opened neighborhood service centers where residents can easily access social services. Because of



the widespread misinformation and myths among residents, IMPACT made the case for recruiting “Community Connectors” to work at those sites—diverse residents who bridge neighbors in need with the maze of services. The Connectors have served a critical role, increasing the likelihood that residents apply for and receive the services they are eligible for.



When we brought residents together after door-knocking, new English learning circles emerged among immigrants of all backgrounds. Within a context of peer support, these residents have developed homegrown ESOL programs, taught by neighbors, which

provide incredible comfort and empowerment across lines of difference that are missing in traditional English programs.

For more information, please contact Lianna Levine Reisner at 301-495-3336 or lianna@impactsilverpring.org



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