Guy and Suzanne have been committed supporters of college access for years, in particular the work of 10,000 Degrees (10KD). Its model of comprehensive support for students from low-income backgrounds - both to and through college - coupled with its superlative results, has driven the couple to become longterm donors. Guy even sits on the Board of Directors.

But they are always looking for additional ways to support the organization. So when they were informed of a new opportunity to do so via MCF’s Venture Impact Program, they were excited.

In essence, it allows them to invest in 10KD: to use their philanthropic dollars to provide the organization with upfront working capital.

This has been made possible via a unique partnership between NPX, a Bay Area firm transforming how nonprofits are funded, and 10KD. NPX created a Bay Area Donor Impact Fund which has raised $4.5 million in donations. 10KD has been selected as a recipient of a portion of that money IF it can produce specific, measurable outcomes in its work. In this instance, assisting 160 low-income students complete their bachelor’s degrees. Helping them hit those outcomes is where Guy and Suzanne play a role by providing the upfront investment. As funding helps 10KD focus on achieving the desired impact, donations are unlocked to pay back their investments, with the possibility of a return. All of which can be redeposited into their fund at MCF for future philanthropic use.

Guy and Suzanne contributed $250,000 over a five-year timeframe. They are eager to see how this new approach works for 10KD.

We love this opportunity for a few reasons. It allows us to put the money that is in our MCF fund to work. It allows us to know exactly the impact of our investment. And importantly, it provides 10,000 Degrees with the peace of mind that they have essential capital that they can leverage without having to engage in nonstop fundraising.

— Guy & Suzanne

If you’re interested in exploring ways to provide seed capital for social impact through philanthropy, get in touch.

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