

sparkventures

business driven philanthropy

FOUNDERS REPORT

Fall 2017



EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

A Note from Rich Johnson, Cofounder, Spark Ventures

These past few months at Spark Ventures have been exciting - and packed full of new developments. The biggest development was the announcement of our new partner organization in Mexico. EntreAmigos has incredible impact - with a dedicated team, serving over 1000 community members each month with programs ranging from student scholarships to computer literacy, from music and arts to gardening, from entrepreneurship to environmental stewardship. We are thrilled to partner with them and support this powerful work.

The past few months also saw the launch of Spark's sister company, Ignite. In addition to facilitating trips to see our partnership work in action, Ignite is expanding to offer these experiences to companies as a way to engage and develop their teams. I am excited to help lead Ignite and use that opportunity to expand Spark's reach and impact. I will remain strategically involved in Spark Ventures as both a cofounder and on the board of directors, and we are excited to introduce Spark's newest team member, Managing Director, Kristin Schrepferman. She stepped into this role earlier this fall and has quickly established her value to our organization. I'm thankful to have her on the team and know you'll enjoy getting to know her through the interview in this report and as you have a chance to meet her in person.

Thank you to everyone who recently helped us celebrate Spark's 10 Year anniversary. I look forward to our journey together in the next decade.

INSIDE THIS EDITION...

Meet Kristin

An interview with Kristin Schrepferman,
Spark's new Managing Director.

Meet EntreAmigos

Learn more about our newest partner
organization, located in San Pancho, Mexico.

Holiday Giving

Put your holiday giving dollars to work for good,
with a gift of strategic philanthropy.

AND MORE...

MEET KRISTIN

We are thrilled to welcome our new Managing Director, Kristin Schrepferman. She joined the team in early October and has hit the ground running, working closely with Rich and the board to provide leadership for the organization. Kristin has a background in both marketing and operations and her energy and ideas are already positively influencing Spark! We sat down with Kristin to learn a bit more about her...

You've been a part of the Spark Ventures community for a while now, what brought you into the Spark family originally?

Kristin: I've been an enthusiastic supporter since I first heard about Spark in 2014 from my close friend and current Spark board member, Kathy Wolf. I was deeply moved by the stories about her trips to Spark's partners. I was compelled to learn more about Spark's business driven philanthropy model, innovative strategies, and mission of lifting communities out of poverty by supporting sustainable solutions. I was, and continue to be, amazed at the level of dedication and compassion evident in all of the Spark supporters I've met. It's clear to me that they stay involved because they connect with the work they are doing and the people they meet. The values of Spark align with my personal values and commitment to help children living in poverty. I knew this was a group I wanted to get more involved with, and now I am!

You have a lot of travel on your calendar in the next three months, visiting all three of our partners. What do you hope to learn from those trips?

Kristin: I'm really looking forward to visiting our partners in Nicaragua, Mexico and Zambia. I'm eager to meet everyone and hear their stories. It's important to me to gain an understanding of their communities and the impact Spark has had from their perspective. In my first month, I've had the chance to help secure foundation funding for a water and sanitation project for Hope School in Zambia and I will be checking in on the progress during my visit. I also hope to gain an understanding of how our partners see their future and work with them to develop strategies to grow programs and broaden the overall impact the programs have on the communities.

You joined just as Spark celebrated our 10 year anniversary - what are you excited about looking ahead to 2018?

Kristin: Spark 10 was an incredible event. The level of enthusiasm and commitment from supporters is a testament to the work Spark is doing. I had the privilege of hosting Charles & Margaret Mumba from Zambia in my home for the week of the event and also spent a lot of time with Teacher Loveness and Ronald from Zambia as well as Jerome and his wife Tania from Nicaragua. It was such a fun, interesting, and exciting week.

In terms of the future, I personally look forward to developing relationships with partners and supporters, both current and new. I'm excited to work with the board of directors to broaden Spark's impact through our partnership with Ignite, new partnerships in the corporate sector, and by continuing to align the generosity of our supporters with the needs of our partners. I'm convinced that together, we can make our next decade even more successful!

Help us get to know you better - tell us something fun about your background.


Kristin: I live in the Wicker Park neighborhood of Chicago with my husband, two children and my dog. I love music. I've been fortunate enough to see live performances by legends like Elvis, Jerry Garcia, and Prince. I've been to hundreds of concerts over the years and hope to go to many more. My husband and my best friend share the same love of music so I'm always in good company!



join us in Nicaragua

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

5 days // February 7-11, 2018

sparkventures +  **IGNITE**

- Customized itinerary featuring women's empowerment opportunities
- Meaningful engagement with community & local leaders
- Unique cultural highlights, historical insights & natural wonders
- Accommodations in Nicaraguan boutique hotels with exceptional meals





MEET ENTREAMIGOS

Meet Spark Ventures' Newest Partner Organization - A Vibrant Community Center in Mexico

The EntreAmigos community center was founded in 2006 in the heart of San Pancho, Mexico. What started as teaching arts and crafts on a picnic table in a neighborhood front yard has grown into a vibrant center dedicated to education, environmentalism, youth and their families. The home to most of their programming is a remodeled 16,000 square foot warehouse considered a model in sustainability, designed using mostly recycled materials.

In addition to their many community programs, EntreAmigos operates both retail and resale shops that support meaningful portions of their operations while providing jobs and skills to local entrepreneurs.

Spark Ventures, provides funding and strategic support to EntreAmigos' Women's Entrepreneur group, which empowers women of the lowest socio-economic level. These women meet regularly and produce products from recycled goods that are sold in EntreAmigos' gallery. The women are paid for their products and also gain valuable business skills.

Spark Ventures also supports the "Jungle Group" - an after school program for children grades 2-6 who are behaviorally and academically challenged, providing diverse educational initiatives, tutoring, mentoring and more.



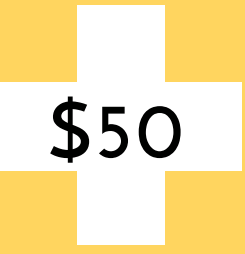







Meet EntreAmigos in person on an upcoming experience. // More details on trips here: sparkventures.org/travel.

HOLIDAY GIVING

With a Spark Ventures gift this holiday season, you can give in honor of friends and family while ensuring your gift will make a powerful impact on the communities we serve around the world. Through Spark Ventures' strategic approach to philanthropy, your gift will be put to work addressing critical community needs in Mexico, Nicaragua and Zambia.

Help us empower future leaders - sparkventures.org/holidaygiving

 <p>\$10</p> <p>MEALS FOR A MONTH</p>	 <p>\$25</p> <p>TEACHING RESOURCES</p>	 <p>\$50</p> <p>MALARIA TESTING</p>	 <p>\$100</p> <p>MEALS FOR A YEAR</p>
 <p>\$100</p> <p>EDUCATION FOR A YEAR</p>	 <p>\$125</p> <p>MONTH OF TEACHING</p>	 <p>\$200</p> <p>CONTINUING EDUCATION</p>	 <p>\$500</p> <p>WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP</p>

10TH ANNIVERSARY SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 10th Anniversary Celebration a huge success. With a packed room on October 12th we raised over \$150,000 to support our work lifting communities out of poverty.



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