

Life After Intel: Rob Aslett

Story by Howard High

Focused on the Impact of Giving, not Just the Art of Giving

When Rob Aslett retired from Intel in 2018, he wanted to use his experience and skills developed over 30 years at Intel to help Portland's nonprofits achieve their goals. But how does one do so with efficiency and effectiveness?

Like many former Intel employees, Rob knew that if he was going to commit to a new venture, he wanted to excel.

Settling into retirement, Rob spent a year at a local nonprofit as an Intel Encore Fellow. While he enjoyed it, the work didn't fully satisfy the need Rob felt to give back to his local community. Resolute in his goal of finding a better way for him to maximize the impact of his volunteer time and charitable contributions, Rob kept looking for new opportunities.

He recalled thinking of how venture capital firms work with startups. Typically, these firms invest both their expertise and money in new for-profit companies. Rob wondered if he might be able to do the same thing for nonprofits. In doing so, he felt his experience, skills, and monetary contributions could have a larger impact than working with just one established nonprofit.

Enter Social Venture Partners Portland

Social Venture Partners (SVP) Portland is part of an international network of local partners designed to help individuals amplify their giving. The individuals who work with SVP Portland are able to provide value in many different ways. Some partners provide a monetary donation, while others combine that with providing advice and/or hands-on help to implement important capabilities. Other partners focus on the running of SVP itself by participating in internal committees. Rob chose to be active in all of those areas. He works directly helping two nonprofits in SVP Portland's portfolio to increase their organizational capacity, while also participating in the portfolio management team where he helps SVP decide where to invest its time and dollars.



Social Venture Partners started in 1997 and is now active in more than forty cities throughout the world. The Portland chapter of SVP already had strong Intel roots -- some of the group's founders were former Intel employees that helped the chapter begin its work 21 years ago. SVP Portland currently focuses its investment in time and money on closing a key education gap by enabling preschool for all children.

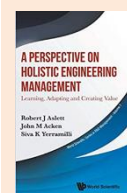
One of the nonprofits Rob chose to get involved in directly is the [Center for African Immigrants and Refugees of Oregon \(CAIRO\)](#). The parents and children of these families often have a difficult time adjusting to the local school system, language, and culture. As a result, the performance of the children in school often suffers. This can lead to a negative spiral that puts them at a severe disadvantage as they progress through the school system. Rob joined with others at SVP Portland to help CAIRO



Who is Robert Aslett?

Robert joined Intel on August 8, 1988 as a circuit designer. He soon moved into management and led various engineering research and development organizations that ranged from six to more than 1,000 people. He retired in 2018 as vice president and general manager of a technology organization that developed and supported engineering solutions for most of Intel's engineering groups.

After leaving Intel, Robert co-authored a book on engineering management with two other former Intel employees (John Acken and Siva Yerramilli with a forward from Pat Gelsinger) titled, [A](#)



[Perspective on Holistic Engineering Management](#). The book is being used by a graduate

level Engineering and Technology Management class at Portland State University where he gives occasional guest lectures.

The late Joe Barthmaier was one of the founding members of Social Venture Partners Portland and a former Board Member of the Group. He was such an important contributor

implement preschool programs and K-12 mentoring programs designed to service the African immigrant and refugee (AIR) community. SVP also helped CAIRO stabilize its financial situation, implement key organizational capabilities, and expand the number of children it serves. During the potentially catastrophic impact of the recent pandemic, SVP helped CAIRO leverage additional government funding to increase the number of children from the AIR community getting preschool education, K-12 mentoring, and the number of AIR families receiving health and economic support.



“Give Rob a project to manage and access to a spreadsheet, and he’ll facilitate the research and collaboration necessary to ensure a successful outcome,” noted CAIRO Darren Davidson, SVP Portland’s Deputy Director.

“There are many skills I learned at Intel that I apply to my work in SVP,” Rob said. “My experience forming, and leading organizations has given me insights on what organizational capabilities are needed to succeed. My experience leading strategic planning processes has given me insights on how to lead similar efforts with SVP and new nonprofits who are struggling to define their strategy. Not to mention, my experience implementing various engineering technologies has given me the skills to step in and help install key capabilities for nonprofits when they lack the necessary skills.”

Rob continues to be engaged with CAIRO as its scope and capacity grows. He notes that there are a new set of challenges as the organization moves from its “start-up” to its “growth” phase. “It’s an exciting time for everyone involved as the impact of the organization expands and its vision starts to get realized,” Rob said.

Rob has also started working with another new non-profit, the Alliance for Equity in Montessori Education (AEME) - <https://montessori-equity.org>. AEME has similar objectives and challenges as CAIRO did two years ago and it is already benefiting from the learning Rob took away from his work with CAIRO over the past few years.

Rob hopes that the Intel retiree community can learn from his experience with engaging with Social Venture Partners – Portland. “Venture philanthropy is a very fulfilling option for those looking to contribute to the community,” Rob concluded.

If you are interested in learning more about SVP, please visit [SVP Portland SVP Portland - Partners for Good \(socialventurepartners.org\)](https://socialventurepartners.org) or reach out to SVP Portland’s Director of Investor Partnerships at info@svpportland.org. If you would like to connect with Rob, he can be reached at rob@svpportland.org.

to SVP Portland that when he passed away the organization created “[Joe’s Court](#)” which is a celebration to honor SVP Partners who have invested

JOE’S COURT SVP PARTNERS FOR A DECADE for 10 years or more. Joe worked at Intel for more than 22 years in engineering and marketing positions in the systems end of the business.



The late Les Soltesz who passed away in 2018 was also an active

member of SVP Portland. You can read about his experiences here: [2008-Q4 Intel Retiree News \(color\)](#)

