



SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT PROJECT

FOSTERING HOPE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colorado Institute for Social Impact (CI4SI) was hired by Fostering Hope to conduct a project for Social Return on Investment (SROI). Original projected areas for analysis were:

- Economic Impact for Foster Child, Foster Family, and Community
- Taxpayer Savings
- Wellbeing of Child and Family to include social and career

The CI4SI team added a fourth area of impact and evaluated both the *Core Program* and *Fostering Adulthood Program* in each of the four categories, leaving the final areas for analysis as:

- Economic Impact and Benefits
- Taxpayer Savings
- Job Readiness and Employability
- Wellbeing and Health

The SROI found for Fostering Hope can be broken down and summarized in several different forms. Below are key findings:

TOTALS

- **SROI 2019—All Impact Profiles—\$879,647.64**
 - By Probability
 - *Established*-\$161,786.56
 - *Probable*-\$200,408.57
 - *Possible*-\$517,452.52
 - By Category
 - *Economic Impact and Benefits*—\$265,635.50
 - *Taxpayer Savings*—\$203,132.06
 - *Job Readiness and Employability*—\$307,940.08
 - *Wellbeing and Health*—\$102,940
 - Final Adjusted 2019 Figures to include Financials
 - *Total Final SROI*-\$986,820
 - *SROI per dollar invested 2019*—\$2.79
- **SROI 2019—Established Impact Profile—\$161,786.56**
 - *Established* SROI By Category
 - *Economic Impact and Benefits*—\$47,635.50
 - *Taxpayer Savings*—\$21,300.06
 - *Job Readiness and Employability*—\$5,911
 - *Wellbeing and Health*—\$86,940
 - Final Adjusted *Established* SROI Figures
 - *Total Final SROI*-\$268,958.91
 - *SROI per dollar invested 2016-2019*—\$1.49

INTRODUCTION

The Colorado Institute for Social Impact (CI4SI) was hired by Fostering Hope to conduct a study for Social Return on Investment (SROI). The CI4SI SROI Team received data directly from Fostering Hope and then collected metrics and analyzed the data for the year 2019.

PROCESS

What is SROI?

Social Return on Investment, or SROI, is the measurement of the value of efforts of an organization to alleviate a social, environmental or community issue. The SROI metric helps for-profit and non-profit entities as well as funders clearly articulate their social impact using the language of dollars and cents. Similar to a traditional Return on Investment (ROI) business calculation that depicts the gain generated on a given investment, SROI quantifies an organization's contributions toward strengthening its community.

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is an approach based on social accounting and cost-benefit analysis. It assigns a monetary value to the social impact of an activity and compares this value to the cost incurred in creating the benefit. An SROI analysis produces a cost to benefit ratio that allows the organization to communicate to external stakeholders the value they add to stakeholders. A SROI ratio of 1:1 means that for every dollar invested in a project, one dollar of benefit has been created for the project's stakeholders. A ratio of 2:1 means that two dollars of value were created for every dollar invested. In addition to this ratio, the SROI analysis constructs a story encompassing both qualitative and quantitative change among the primary stakeholders.

The Colorado Institute for Social Impact (CI4SI) offers comprehensive SROI research and evaluation services to empower and equip organizations with a monetary framework to tell their story. Our final product is a comprehensive SROI Impact Profile that showcases and quantifies each included area of impact. We compute realistic calculations, based on trusted, validated sources and best practices. We pride ourselves in providing verifiable, and transparent methodologies that generate realistic estimations of real social value. CI4SI calculations are credible and precise – and conservative. We won't over-reach.

Our experienced evaluation team consists of seasoned practitioners and researchers with advanced degrees and a deep understanding of many fields including: Data Science, Statistics, Business, Accounting, Actuarial Science, Behavioral Science, Program Evaluation, Community Health and Education.

CONCLUSIONS FOR FOSTERING HOPE—2019

- Economic Impact and Benefits—\$265,635.50
 - Core Program—\$247,067.50
 - Events
 - Activities with Kids—\$697.50
 - Childcare—\$18,097.50
 - Errands—\$307.50
 - Specialized Support—\$650.00
 - General Support—\$67.50
 - Transportation—\$9,247.50
 - Generational Impact
 - Lifting Family out of Poverty—\$218,000.00
 - Fostering Adulthood Program—\$18,568.00
 - Activities
 - 1 on 1—\$10,150.00
 - Employment and Goals—\$1,950.00
 - Haven—\$350.00
 - Transportation—\$420.00
 - Additional Benefits
 - Food and Groceries—\$1,387.00
 - Incidental Items and Other—\$1,311.00
 - Car Donation—\$3,000.00
- Taxpayer Savings—\$203,132.06
 - Core Program—\$146,015.00
 - Reduce Homelessness—\$142,312.00
 - Reduce Criminal Incidence—\$3,703.00
 - Fostering Adulthood Program—\$57,117.06
 - Reduce Homelessness—\$37,254.06
 - Fully self-supporting—\$9,606.06
 - Partially self-supporting—\$27,648.00
 - Reduce Unemployment—\$11,928.00
 - Full Success—\$8,520.00
 - Partial Success—\$3,408.00
 - Reduce Criminal Incidence—\$7,935.00
- Job Readiness and Employability—\$307,940.08
 - Core Program—\$211,218.08
 - Education
 - College Enrollment—\$106,395.94
 - Vocational Enrollment—\$34,744.58

- High School Enrollment—\$70,077.57
 - Fostering Adulthood Program—\$96,722.00
 - Education
 - College Enrollment—\$43,160.00
 - Vocational Enrollment—\$18,096.00
 - Reducing Turnover—\$35,466.00
- Wellbeing and Health—\$102,940.00
 - Core Program—\$68,165.00
 - Avoidance of Teen Pregnancy—\$16,000
 - Reduce Mental Health Issues (foster child)—\$10,540.00
 - Reduce Mental Health Issues (foster parents)—\$41,625.00
 - Fostering Adulthood Program—\$34,775.00
 - Avoidance of Teen Pregnancy—\$32,000.00
 - Reduce Mental Health Issues—\$2,775.00

TOTALS

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LIMITATIONS

Valuations we chose

Social Return on Investment and the process used to value it is early in its development. While a great deal of due diligence was done by the CI4SI SROI team on this project and we are confident in the numbers provided, this process can only be made stronger by all Social Impact businesses gathering data consistently and longitudinally to continually increase the validity and reliability of these metrics.

Program in Early Stages

Because the program Fostering Adulthood is still early in its inception, data sets were minimal and had no follow up at this time. Fostering Hope has put together an excellent rating system across many life dimensions that they will administer several times throughout a young adult's time with them. This will increase their data integrity for that program greatly. To match the strength of the data across program for the purposes of this SROI study, only one year's impact was measured.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Gather Information Consistently

Additional specific information on types of encounters and events will help ensure those are categorized correctly. For instance, track adoption, emancipation, going back to bio families, probation, suicidal thoughts etc.. as its own bucket (vs C7, C8 and C9 code). Gathering the type of detail, or description of the encounter, using the same language every time will also decrease confusion and missed opportunities for impact measurement.

Extended Follow-up

Follow up is a key piece of evaluating the true value of SROI. Some impacts lessen over time while some increase. For example, someone who entered your services might have been able to remove themselves from public benefits after your support concluded or perhaps they enrolled in services more frequently. Either way, more intense follow-up done six months to a year after completion will provide more accurate assessment of return.

Perform Pre and Post Assessments

Gathering pre and post data will strengthen the SROI calculations exponentially. By understanding the individual needs as clients enter your services and what needs remain at the conclusion of your services, you can establish a more accurate calculation of the return you are offering.

Track People, Incidents and Encounters One at a Time

We found in some of the data compilation that several encounters were counted in one database entry. We also found that if more than one foster child was placed, those were all captured as one family whereas tracking progress and interaction with each individual child will enhance data. Performing separate entries for each encounter will provide a more accurate count of incidences of impact.

MARKETING INSIGHTS

This is about Depth as well as Breadth

Often times mission focused organizations are only able to share their outputs in the form of such data as “number served”. SROI takes even the smallest number served and breaks out impact across categories and at the same time assigning a dollar value that everyone can understand.

This is a Future-Focused Program

Much of the work that Fostering Hope is doing will have an impact that shows its strength years down the road as these children and young people venture out on their own and are able to maintain financial stability, healthy relationships, and prosocial behaviors. Because long term outcomes are such a crucial goal for the success of Fostering Hope, we recommend that those viewing this report take into consideration all the categories of impact, not just the immediately tangible impacts in the *Established* category.

This is an Intermediary and Mentoring Program

It is important to recognize that much of the work that Fostering Hope does for foster children is behind the scenes, and in support of the families taking in those children, not always directly working with the children. Fostering Hope also partners closely with donors and other organizations that seek to do good for these children taking in donations and monetary gifts—but without the guidance and expertise of Fostering Hope working with these families—that good could easily have less impact. So although Fostering Hope is only awarded partial credit on some of the support categories in this study due to others playing an equally important role in the welfare of these children, Fostering Hope is a critical component of their success.

COLORADO INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EFFORT AND DEDICATION IN MEASURING THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.

~END OF REPORT~

