INVESTOR PROFILE // CHRIS PAPPO

WITH MISSION IN MIND, CHRIS PAPPO TAKES A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO INVESTING LOCALLY IN PHILADELPHIA

"Impact investing isn’t charity. My first investments ticked three important boxes: local, purpose-driven, and a good investment. While money is a side benefit for me, I expect I’ll see a material return for the capital deployed. It’s encouraging and inspiring."

Chris Pappo, Philanthropist and Angel Impact Investor

After 23 years of helping to grow a wholesale distribution company with 750 locations across the U.S. and Canada, Chris Pappo was seeking a change. Knowing he would never retire or be entirely fulfilled with travel, he reflected upon two questions: What makes me most excited when I wake up each morning? What are the values that drive me? With a whiteboard and some time, he landed on a clear answer that aligns his business savvy and political interest: giving time, money, and energy to support entrepreneurs affecting change across social justice, immigrant communities, economic justice, local food systems and climate action. “I knew I wanted a practical approach,” said Pappo, “and realized there’s so much work to do at a local level right here in Philadelphia.”

A chain of serendipitous local events and introductions lead him to discover the growing world of impact and mission-aligned investing in the Greater Philadelphia region. “I’m happily drinking from a firehose,” says Pappo. “Fellow investors should know that, while it’s not always readily apparent, opportunities to put capital to meaningful work in Philadelphia do exist.” It just takes plugging into the local impact investing movement.

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Formerly the CFO of an industry leading North American-wide business, Chris now practices philanthropy with organizations like Social Venture Partners (SVP) and angel impact investing with Social Venture Circle (SVC).

LOCATION & REACH

Chris was born and raised in Boston where he began his career, then a stint in Minnesota before landing in the Philadelphia area, where he’s now lived for 23 years - currently in Washington Square.

CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Chris has alloted a significant portion of his portfolio to mission-aligned investing across personal and foundation assets. With a focus on mission first, Chris is agnostic to size, asset class, or whether he’s investing debt or equity capital.

THE HIGHLIGHT

After participating in ImpactPHL’s first impact tour, Chris joined Social Venture Circle and made three investments into local social enterprises: Jeffrey Miller Catering, Wash Cycle Laundry, and First Step Staffing.

ALIGNMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DID YOU KNOW?

45,000

THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS IN PHILADELPHIA

Raised in a strong Italian immigrant community, Chris cares about how we support local immigrant entrepreneurs communities, and their livelihoods as Philadelphia continues to grow and change. Philadelphia’s 45,000 immigrant entrepreneurs bring vibrancy to the city through everything from street vendors, to restaurants, to media, tech, and health companies.

Source: newamericaneconomy.org/phadelphia

This profile was created as part of a content series for The Greater Philadelphia Impact Investing Hub, an ImpactPHL initiative that aims to align the Greater Philadelphia region’s economy with positive social and environmental impact. Learn more about The Greater Philadelphia Impact Investing Hub and find more resources at impactphl.org.