



REC'D NOV 30 2011

November 28, 2011

Social Venture Partners
1601 Second Avenue, Suite 615
Seattle, WA 98101 - 1539

Dear Paul Shoemaker and the SIFP Core Team,

On behalf of the board, staff and all of the farmers at Viva Farms, thank you for the opportunity to showcase our work in Seattle's first Social Innovation Fast Pitch and at your Fall meeting.

Viva Farms is a project of Grow Food, a nonprofit operating since 2001 to train a new generation of organic farmers. Our website, GrowFood.org, is one of the largest networks of farm internships in the world, with over 2000 farms in all 50 states and 57 countries. The over 20,000 people who have used our program have gained transformational, hands-on experience on organic farms. Many have continued with farming as a career path and have gone on to start their own farms.

We launched Viva Farms in June of 2009 to provide new farmers with the four common elements needed for success: education, land, capital and markets. We also work with the Latino community to help transition farm workers to farm ownership. Our educational program is bilingual, Spanish/English, the first of its kind in Washington.

Your \$40,000 award will greatly assist Viva Farms and our work to prepare a new generation of economically successful farmers. Please feel free to visit our 33 acre farm in the beautiful Skagit Valley anytime. *Nuestra granja es tu granja.*

Sincerely,

Ethan Schaffer
Executive Director, Grow Food

Grow Food is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and this letter confirms no goods or services were exchanged for this contributions



Paul, SIFP core team, SVP members and staff:

A heartfelt thank you from all of us at Viva Farms for the opportunity to share our vision and accomplishments with SVP's extended community. We found that the value of participating in the Fast Pitch FAR exceeded the value of the generous cash prize: the ^{value of the} relationships we developed and the feedback & support we received from our SIFP Mentors & audience members was immeasurable. Let us know if there's anything we can do to help with SIFP 2012 & visit any time! Sincerely, Janis Saleh