

Testimony on Sarah Cohen-Doherty, 3/29/21

Submitted by Lauren Johnson, Executive Director, Social Venture Partners Portland

Sarah was the Community Impact Manager at Social Venture Partners Portland (SVP) at the time of her passing, but more than that, she was the heart of our team. Sarah was a ray of sunshine and exemplified what it is to be a community change-maker. Her passion and commitment to SVP's work shone brightly, and it reverberated throughout our Partnership of volunteer professionals and community leaders.

Gifted with the trifecta of intelligence, dedication, and charm, Sarah chose a clear path to making a positive impact in her community. She joined SVP Portland in 2017 after earning a master's degree in teaching from Willamette University and working as a teacher, education program coordinator, and communications project manager. Her diverse experience brought a wealth of knowledge to SVP, and the organization has been enriched greatly because of it. Sarah lived SVP, not just as staff, but as a true partner.

The majority of SVP's newsletters, blog posts, and social media were written by Sarah. We struggle to do this testimony justice, and as we write these words, we can't help but hear her critiques, both playful and exacting. With steadfast purpose to seek clarity, transparency, and warmth, Sarah was always striving to share the best of SVP and the transformational impact that we make in our community.

We will not be the same without Sarah, and we know she would not only expect us to move forward, she would demand it (with graceful persistence). Her voice may be quieted, but her indelible mark on SVP and the Portland community will never be forgotten.