

Alumni Reflections on the Dual Investment Program

Joshua Venture Group (JVG) has graduated 32 social entrepreneurs from our signature two-year program. In Spring 2015, we surveyed our alumni to identify which aspects of the suite of support services provided through the Dual Investment Program were of greatest value to them. We had a response rate of 75% (24 of 32 alumni), with at least 5 alumni responses from each cohort of 8.

Where are alumni and their ventures now?

All 32 JVG alumni* **continue to have leadership roles** – either lay or professional – within the Jewish community.



22 of 32 JVG-funded ventures (68%) are currently operational.



16 of 22 operational ventures are still led by JVG alumni.



Staff size of the 22 operational ventures:

- 12** 0-5 employees
- 6** 6-10 employees
- 3** 11-15 employees
- 1** 16+ employees



Budget size of the 22 operational ventures:

- 6** \$100K or under
- 4** \$150-350K
- 5** \$400-900K
- 5** \$1mil or over

Reflections on their JVG experience

“I am extremely grateful to be part of the community. It gives me so much joy and has **so much professional and personal value.**” – **2001 alum**

“Joshua Venture is an amazing program that **dramatically helped my career** and for that I am extremely grateful.” – **2003 alum**

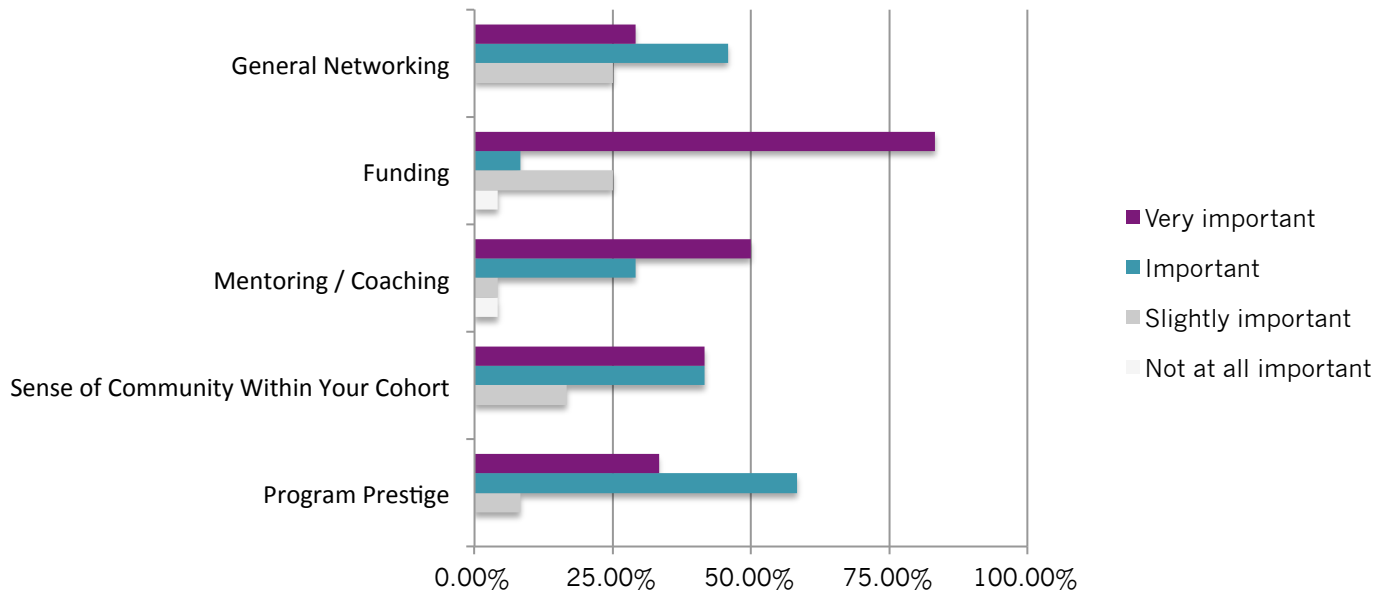
“The JVG experience overall **has felt like such an incredible gift** and I am very grateful!” – **2010 alum**

“JVG came at the right time... We are **currently experiencing the benefits of the program more than during the program.** It was a privilege to be a part of and [my venture] will be around for awhile in part due to JVG. How ‘big’ we become is up to me and my capability in building a team but I now have some tools to help in scaling.” – **2012 alum**

The Dual Investment Program Value

Alumni were asked to indicate the extent of importance of several aspects of the program. The chart below illustrates the level of importance attributed to each program aspect across all four cohorts.

Program Aspects of Importance to JVG Alumni



Overall, we found that:

- **Funding is of significant value to the majority of JVG alumni across all four cohorts:** 20 of 24 respondents (83%) indicated that funding was a very important aspect of the program.
- **Alumni feel a strong sense of community within the extended JVG network:** Several noted that they value relationships with alumni outside their own cohort and often look to the broader network for guidance and support.
- **Constant refinement of the program curriculum has increased its value to alumni:** Since the first cohort (2001), JVG has worked thoughtfully to fine-tune our curriculum. All alumni surveyed from the more recent cohorts found coaching/mentoring to be an important or very important program aspect.
- **Our efforts to deepen the cohort experience have yielded stronger affinities among alumni:** In response to feedback from our 2010 cohort, we focused more intently on strengthening peer connections within the 2012 cohort. All 7 respondents from the 2012 cohort found the sense of community within the cohort to be important or very important.
- **Each aspect of the program is very important to at least 7 respondents:** JVG's multifaceted approach to supporting early-stage ventures meets the diverse set of needs of each cohort.
- **The value of the program evolves over time:** Several alumni reflected that while funding was critical at the onset of the program, the relationships and network access have increased in importance to them over time.