



# Praxis Mutual Funds®

## INVESTOR PROFILE



### Mark Regier, Praxis Mutual Funds

Promoting impact investing in companies and organizations that serve Chicago-area communities where need outstrips resources, Benefit Chicago attracts investors with strong values and a desire to advance positive change.

Praxis Mutual Funds is one such investor. Praxis is part of Everence Financial, a diversified financial services organization owned by the Mennonite Church USA. Praxis was introduced to Benefit Chicago by Calvert Impact Capital, and was immediately interested in Benefit Chicago's focus on community impact.

"Praxis Mutual Funds remains one of the few mutual funds to commit 1 percent of each of our funds to impact investing, ensuring that those on the very margins of our society can be included in economic opportunity," said Mark Regier, Vice President of Praxis Mutual Funds. "A commitment to community development investing has been a core component of our Stewardship Investing philosophy for nearly 20 years."

While Praxis was an eager investor, their interest extends well beyond financial support. Praxis has developed a strong relationship with Sweet Beginnings, one of the six social enterprises to receive loans last May.

"We've gotten to know Brenda Palms-Barber, founder and CEO of Sweet Beginnings, and are very impressed by what her organization is doing," said Mr. Regier. "We love Sweet Beginnings' beelove® products, but most of all, we share their passion for extending employment opportunities to the formerly incarcerated. Mennonites have a long history of welcoming ex-inmates back into society, and at Praxis, we feel very strongly that by helping people participate in the economy, we are able to improve community culture and development."



Praxis Mutual Funds has taken its involvement in Sweet Beginnings to the next level by launching a "Sweet Taste of Impact" campaign. "In addition to featuring the work of Sweet Beginnings in various presentations and articles, we will give away over 700 beelove® honey products during this conference season. People really love them," said Mr. Regier.



"For Praxis, this engagement would not be possible without the work Benefit Chicago is doing to positively impact local communities. We are incredibly excited to be part of their initiative and to share the possibilities with others," added Mr. Regier.