This book is unique: it combines rich and colorful cases from the hard-earned practical experience with setting out a theoretical basis for social entrepreneurship. Placed in the context of the social capital and social network theories, the work will show you how to find a fulcrum for change and how to leverage in producing lasting results. Praszkier and Nowak will tell you what characterizes successful social entrepreneurs and how to set off a process of social innovation for the betterment of communities, societies and, indeed, the world. With this book, the authors help institutionalize social entrepreneurship as a major force for the good.

Vladimir Zwass, Ph.D.
Gregory Olsen Endowed Chair and
University Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and MIS
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Praszkier and Nowak's book "Social Entrepreneurship: theory and practice" is a delight to read. It is based on many case studies of successful social entrepreneurs; these are inspiring in their own right. They also provide the material from which the authors distil a novel theory of social entrepreneurship, based on ideas drawn from complexity science.

The book provides an overview of definitions of social entrepreneurship and of the mechanisms by which they work; it will serve as an exciting text book.

The book then extends the current state of this theory. It focuses in particular on the mechanisms that social entrepreneurs use: self-reliance, building of social networks and the creation of social capital, eventually leading to a new stable field of social forces. This provides an essential theoretical framework for future research in this area.

The book also draws lessons for successful social entrepreneurship, useful for anyone aspiring to such success.

David S. Brée, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor of Artificial Intelligence, School of Computer Science, University of Manchester, UK
Ph.D. obtained at Carnegie-Mellon University, USA.
This book helps us understand the phenomenal rise in interest in social entrepreneurship in ways that go beyond the popular emphasis on the charisma and creativity of inspiring individuals. The authors skillfully ground the work of a diverse set of social entrepreneurs around the world in social capital, complexity, leadership, and emergence theories, among others. Their analysis of how social entrepreneurs cleverly disrupt and shift social norms and practices from within their cultures and communities is particularly compelling, as it goes to the core of why social entrepreneurs' initiatives are more successful than most development and activism projects. Praszkier and Nowak have produced the most sophisticated and useful book yet on the role of social entrepreneurs in social change and community transformation.

Shawn MacDonald, Ph. D., Senior Advisor at Verité (Fair Labor Worldwide) ex Vice President of Ashoka, Innovators for the Public

Every leader creating positive social impact, every student aspiring to change the world, and every academic studying how to improve the world, should read ‘Social Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice’. Dr. Ryszard Praszkier and Dr. Nowak delve deeply into how the maximum human benefit can be created and spread globally - including the role of decentralized networks and empowered individuals. With real-world case-studies from every continent, this book demonstrates how the discipline of social entrepreneurship is the most effective movement to span sectors, engage and inspire citizens to act, and create new institutions and role models that we can and should follow. Most of all, this easy-to-read and memorable handbook guides us to solving our pressing problems with scalable, sustainable solutions worldwide.

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