

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/building-a-safe-community-for-founders>

Puneet Agarwal, partner at True Ventures, expresses the importance of building a safe community for entrepreneurs to talk about their problems, fears, and experiences. Investing in mental health and open dialogue provides entrepreneurs the ability to be their best self.



Transcript

- But we have invested a ton of our resources in building community.. And you can actually tell what people care about, oftentimes, by where they're actually investing money.. And we invest a lot in this.. So this is all our founders and CEOs at what we call our Last Founder Camp.. This was back out in Carmel, and we bring all these guys together.. It's a great picture of them.. But we have, as I said, 140 active companies, 260 plus Founder CEOs, in the community.. And I like to call it a hyper connected community, that's basically a non judgmental zone.. So whatever question you have, you can ask.. You will get an answer, probably within five minutes..

And you will not be judged.. So you can absolutely be vulnerable and talk about your issues.. So like, for example, at this Founder camp, which we're gonna hold in another week or so, we bring all these folks together.. And we don't have outside speakers.. We don't call it, like, a CEO summit, which are great too.. You bring this great, Bill Gates, or whoever in.. And he talks about his life and what he's done, it's amazing.. We just have our founders.. And they just talk about their problems off the record.. It's not a big, ring the bell, rah rah fest, some of that..

But for the most part, it's actually talking seriously about what they're going through.. Similarly, we've invested really heavily in something called True Forums, which is kind of modeled after YPO.. Founders get together every month, 10 of them or so, they have a moderator, off the record.. And they talk about issues that are affecting them.. We're investing in mental health, right? We put a lot of our dollars into this because, again, it brings huge safety.. And it allows them to be their best self.. Which is a really, really big deal in our book..