Polaris Growth Fund Named to Inc.'s 2026 Founder-Friendly Investors List

The annual list recognizes private equity, venture capital, and lending firms with strong track records of supporting founder-led businesses

BOSTON, MA, October 30, 2026 – Polaris Growth Fund (PGF) has been named to **Inc.'s 2026 Founder-Friendly Investors** list, which recognizes private equity firms, venture capital firms, and lenders with demonstrated track records of supporting founder-led companies. This year's list recognizes PGF among 294 firms across the investment landscape.

The prestigious Founder-Friendly Investors list celebrates the investors and firms that work closely with entrepreneurs and remain engaged with the businesses they back. Honorees are recognized for their approach to partnering with founders and supporting their companies through growth and beyond.

"With the current funding environment and rapid changes facing growing companies, founders are looking for more than just capital from their investors. They want true partners who believe in their business, but who are also able to provide the critical advisement and strategic support they need to reach their potential," says Bonny Ghosh, editorial director at Inc. "The 2026 Founder-Friendly Investor awards celebrate those firms — the ones committed to partnership, excellence, and helping founder-led companies grow."

"Founders trust us with something they've spent years, often decades, building, and we don't take that lightly," said Bryce Youngren, Managing Partner at Polaris Growth Fund. "Being named to this list based on what founders themselves told Inc. means a great deal to our team."

"Our model is built around giving founders real resources and real partnership while unlocking meaningful upside in their continued stake. We're grateful to every founder and management team who has taken that journey with us," said Dan Lombard, Managing Partner at Polaris Growth Fund.

PGF (and its predecessor funds) has made 29 growth investments in founder-owned, profitable B2B software and tech-enabled services companies. PGF partners with profitable businesses generating $5 million to $25 million in annual recurring revenue, allowing their founders to achieve partial or full liquidity while retaining meaningful equity upside in what they built.

To compile the Founder-Friendly Investors list, Inc. went straight to the source: entrepreneurs who have sold to private equity and venture capital firms. Founders completed questionnaires about their experiences partnering with private equity, venture capital, and debt firms and shared data on how their companies have performed during these partnerships. The resulting list highlights investors that founders identified as strong partners throughout the investment process.

For more information or to view the complete list of honorees, visit https://www.inc.com/founder-friendly-investors.

About Polaris Growth Fund
Polaris Growth Fund (PGF) is a collaborative investment firm that partners with founders building category-leading technology companies. A dedicated growth fund within the Polaris Partners family, PGF invests $10 million to $50 million of equity in majority founder-owned, profitable B2B software and tech-enabled services companies, and supports its portfolio with expertise in M&A, recruiting and team building, and functional strategy across sales, marketing, product, and finance. Based in Boston, PGF currently invests out of Polaris Growth Fund III. For more information, visit www.polarisgrowthfund.com.

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Inc.'s 2026 Founder-Friendly Investors list reflects Inc.'s opinion, not that of PGF. The list is based on Inc.'s evaluation of information PGF provided and questionnaires completed by founders of PGF portfolio companies, covering its business over the last five years. Portfolio company founders were not compensated by PGF in connection with their participation, although they generally receive compensation and investment opportunities in connection with their portfolio company roles, and in certain cases are also owners of portfolio company securities and/or investors in PGF funds. PGF submitted an application for the recognition and paid a fee in connection with its submission. This award is not indicative of PGF's future performance and does not necessarily reflect the experience of all clients or investors in any fund managed by PGF or its affiliates. There can be no assurance that another provider or survey would reach the same result. Additional information is available at https://www.inc.com/founder-friendly-investors-methodology-how-we-selected-these-firms.html.