Collaboration is a growing necessity for businesses and startups to achieve a successful entry into an industry. Collaboration helps firms to manage resource deficits and opens opportunities for business growth and expansion. Social enterprises are types of businesses that often lack the resources needed to be self-sustainable. Considering the benefits of collaboration techniques in non-profit organizations and small businesses, this thesis hypothesizes that the use of strategic collaboration can give a new social enterprise the ability to be successfully implemented. Social enterprise is one of the newest and least researched business models and there is room to develop and implement theories and guides in academic research.

The research will explore the current business environment for collaboration within social enterprises. It will define the different motivations and paths for achieving collaboration between businesses. Additionally, research will be conducted to discover the role of collaboration given a lack of resources in a business. This thesis will be compiled of research from current academic journals and real-world business practices. This paper will develop an analysis of the connection between collaboration and the start-up of a social enterprise. Also, it will explore how collaboration can be used to maintain a profitable business. The outcome of these results will be used to create a model, which can be used by entrepreneurs to develop and implement their enterprises.

The goal is to provide the framework for a model that may serve as a critical resource for launching social enterprises. It will introduce a guide for entrepreneurs to analyze their current resource needs and the opportunities for creating collaborative relationships with established businesses and corporations.