Empowering People to Do Good: Unlocking Tech-for-Good Innovation

IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference

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Anh Bui
About Benetech

• A nonprofit that develops technology to create positive social change.
• 70 employees, a community of hundreds of volunteers.
• Leadership team with experience in tech, startups, and social innovation.

Four core program areas:
• Global Literacy
• Human Rights
• Environment
• Benetech Labs
The Benetech Story

Benetech was founded to empower people whose needs are often not a priority.
Our Technology

Bookshare

martus

DIAGRAM Center

ROUTE 66

Miradi
### How We’ve Made a Difference

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Global Literacy</th>
<th>Human Rights</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Benetech Labs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Bookshare serving over 330,000 users in nearly 50 countries</td>
<td>• 220,000+ accounts of violations secured with Martus</td>
<td>• Environmental conservation teams in over 170 countries use Miradi to protect species and ecosystems</td>
<td>• Over 1,000 software professionals signed up to volunteer their skills to humanitarian tech projects via SocialCoding4Good</td>
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<td>• Collection of 300,000+ accessible ebooks</td>
<td>• Hundreds of groups and individuals, in 50 countries, trained on data security</td>
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<td>• 6 million ebooks downloaded</td>
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Numbers Don’t Tell the Whole Story
You Are Not Alone

Harness the power of the tech community.
We Are Better Together

Benetech Truth #5: Partnership Over Going Alone

“Benetech’s strength is in developing technology responsive to real-world needs, but we can’t do it alone.”
How Do We Do This Together?
The DIAGRAM Center: A Case Study
DIAGRAM = Accessible Graphics
Collaborative Community: DNA
Collaborative Community: Breadth

Bringing together field leaders with a range of expertise.
Collaborative Community: Depth
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Reader Experience</th>
<th>What one sees...</th>
<th>What one hears...</th>
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| **Without MathML Cloud** | \[
\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = -10
\] | “image” |
| **With MathML Cloud** | \[
\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = -10
\] | “start frac y sub 2 minus y sub 1 over x sub 2 minus x sub 1 end frac equals minus 10” |
Rolling Up Our Sleeves

Hacking together is one of the most effective ways we've worked together.
One Day Is Enough

For a proof of concept…

And for a proof of relationship.
One Day Is Not Enough

You can only write so much code in a day.

It’s a community that extends the life of the project.
Extended Life through New Partnerships
We embrace being open source and built for collaboration.
Lessons in Effective Collaboration

- Clear action items
- Extended plan of action
- Access to stakeholders and end users
- Open platform, if possible
- Build for collaboration
Applying the Formula: 3D Printing
DIAGRAM Is Not Alone
About SocialCoding4Good

**Drive**
awareness of the power of open source software for social good & the nonprofit organizations creating it as their core mission

**Connect**
software development professionals to opportunities to volunteer time and talent with these nonprofit organizations

**Ignite**
sustainable, cross-sector collaboration across the nonprofit, corporate, and open source technology communities
Open Source for Social Good

"For Medic Mobile, a single deployed project can improve healthcare delivery for more than 5 million people worldwide, immediately, then for millions more for years to come. That’s powerful impact."

- Josh Nesbit, Medic Mobile CEO
Tech Volunteers Making a Difference

- Volunteer opportunities for experienced professionals.
- Long-term partnerships support ongoing employee engagement and pro bono initiatives.
- Complement non-technical “hearts and hands” giving.
- Work from anywhere, on small tasks or extended projects.
Small Projects, Big Impact


Mozilla Popcorn Maker
SocialCoding4Good supports VMware employees with technical volunteer opportunities for Service Learning programs.
Want to Make a Difference?

Join forces!
Keep in Touch

Benetech.org
@Benetech
@DIAGRAMC
@SC4G
Thank You!