Beneficent Technology Inc
Also Known As: BENETECH
480 S California Ave, Ste 201
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Institutional funders should note that an organization’s inclusion on guidestar.org does not satisfy IRS Rev. Proc. 2011-33 for verifying charitable status and identifying supporting organizations.

Contact Information

Beneficent Technology Inc
Also Known As: BENETECH
Physical Address: Palo Alto, CA 94306 1609
Register for free to see this organization's full address, telephone number, Web site, and more!

At A Glance

Formerly Known As:
Category (NTEE): A Arts, Culture, and Humanities / A02 Management & Technical Assistance
Q International, Foreign Affairs, and National Security / Q00 International Human Rights
B Educational Institutions / B07 Libraries, Library Science
Areas Served: Throughout the United States Internationally

Mission Statement

Beneficent develops innovative and effective technology applications for unreached social needs.

Impact Summary

Over the years, Beneficent’s work has dramatically influenced the social entrepreneurial movement and the fields in which we operate. As of December 2014 - Our Bookshare library serves over 330,000 members with print disabilities in more than 50 countries, with a collection of over 395,000 accessible books. Bookshare helps these individuals succeed in school, employment, civic engagement, and beyond. - Marius, our free, open source, secure software tool for human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations has been downloaded in over 120 countries and used to secure over 150,000 records documenting human rights violations. Marius protects the identities of rights activists, witnesses, and victims, and empowers them to be stronger in their fight against injustice and abuse. - Our SocialCodingGood initiative has signed up over 1,000 software development professionals to volunteer their time and technical skills to nonprofit partners that develop and maintain free and open source software addressing critical social problems.

How This Organization Is Funded

- Bookshare revenues (main source of funding is from U.S. Department of Education) - $9,664,736
- Contributions from grants - $1,071,367
- Donates services/products - $424,512

Financial Data

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Revenue and Expenses (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile June 2016)

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Balance Sheet (Form 990)

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Forms 990 Received from the IRS 📄

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Forms 990 Provided by the Nonprofit

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Financial Statements
Program: Global Literacy

Budget: --
Category: Education & Technology
Population Served: Blind and Vision Impaired
Disabled, General or Disability Unspecified

Program Description:

Literacy and education are not a privilege, but a basic human right—fundamental to personal, economic, and social development. Yet, millions of people are denied this right because they face tremendous barriers of access to information. Many have learning differences, like dyslexia. Some have physical or visual disabilities, like blindness. Others have developmental disabilities and have not been taught to read in adulthood. They remain locked out of living fully in our information-rich world. The Benetech Global Literacy Program was founded to address the needs of this underserved population. We do this by working on two fronts: 1) Creating and delivering affordable tools and services that provide equal access to information and literacy. Our Bookshare initiative is the world’s largest online accessible library of copyrighted materials for people with print disabilities. See www.bookshare.org or our Route 66 Literacy initiative is an online instructional literacy application that pairs adolescents and adult beginning readers with literacy volunteer tutors. See see www.route66literacy.org. 2) Categorizing the systemic change required to permanently improve the educational landscape for people with limited accessibility to literacy. Our DIAMOND Center initiative is a research and development center working to promote inclusive publishing and to make it easier, cheaper, and faster to create and use accessible digital images. See www.diamonddc.org

Program Long-Term Success:
Program Short-Term Success:
Program Success Monitored by:
Number of users, number of books provided and downloaded, cost of providing services.

Program Success Examples:

In 2006, experts estimated that merely 5% of print materials worldwide were produced in formats accessible to those with print disabilities, such as people who are blind. Bookshare, in collaboration with educators, technology, publishing, student, parent, and volunteer communities, changed that reality. Bookshare today is the world’s largest accessible online library of copyrighted materials for people with print disabilities. When a person with a print disability requires a specific book for school, work, or leisure, they simply want to read a book, they are likely to find it in Bookshare in the format that best suits them, using a device of their choosing—from traditional assistive devices such as Braille readers to mainstream technologies such as MP3 players, smartphones, and digital tablets. They can also access the tool at no cost, such as accessible remodels for the iPhone and Android operating systems. Bookshare now serves more than 335,000 members with print disabilities and learning disabilities (the majority are U.S. students) with a collection of over 315,000 titles (and rapidly growing). Each month, we are adding thousands of new titles to the collection and our members download more than one million books per year, with Benetech delivering an accessible book for less than one-hundredth of the cost of the previous approach for conversion and delivery of accessible materials. For U.S. students with print disabilities, this means being able to use the educational materials they need at the same time as their peers.

Program: Human Rights

Budget: --
Category: International Human Rights
Population Served: General Public/Unspecified

Program Description:

Around the world, there are people whose fundamental human rights are violated on a daily basis. Victims, witnesses, as well as human rights advocates and human rights workers put their lives at risk when they gather and store records of these abuses. Benetech’s Human Rights Program was founded to empower human rights defenders, human rights workers, journalists, and other organizations to securely collect sensitive information about violations and to effectively utilize it to achieve their goals. We do this by 1) Providing free, open source, secure software tools for collecting human rights information. 2) Extending human rights capacity building and data security trainings to at-risk human rights groups in countries with state-sponsored harassment. 3) Advancing the field of human rights by partnering with non-government organizations, leading human rights groups, and international organizations to develop and distribute open source toolkits. With these combined efforts we advance the global community of rights holders and social justice actors. See www.humanrights.org.

Program Long-Term Success:
Program Short-Term Success:
Program Success Monitored by:
Number of Martial users, number of narrative accounts users create and store in Martial, number of global Martial capacity building trainings, number of human rights advocacy campaigns, publications, and policy recommendations that utilize information secured through Martial.

Program Success Examples:

Since Benetech first deployed Martial—our free, open source, strongly encrypted tool for human rights information collection and management—the Martial user community has had access to a thousand accounts of violence (that we know of). Today, human rights defenders around the world rely on Martial’s strong encryption. Martial has helped human rights defenders in a wide range of situations—from the most difficult circumstances of ongoing violence and repression, to situations where a transition to democracy is possible or is underway in democratic countries is needed to bolster human rights protections, to the rare opportunities when it is possible to prosecute perpetrators for human rights crimes. Consider, for example, the story of NDI-Burma (www.ndi-burma.org)—a Thai-based coalition of over 10 human rights groups that collected narrative testimonies from communities in Burma who endure abuses by the Burmese regime to challenge the regime’s power. Since 2004, Benetech’s Human Rights Program has extended Martial capacity building and technical support to NDI-Burma. Today NDI-Burma member groups have the capacity to carry out their documentation projects on their own and to use their collected information in regularly published reports that shed light on continuing abuses by the Burmese regime. In Guatemala, our team worked with the Human Rights Watch to investigate violence against women during Guatemala’s civil war. With our guidance, Human Rights Watch was able to help establish a security operations center that helped the organization identify and address threats to its staff.

With the support of our partners, we continue to advance the human rights movement by providing secure software solutions and training to human rights defenders around the world. See www.humanrights.org.
Program: Environment

Budget: --
Category: Environment, General, Other
Population Served: General Public/Unspecified

Program Description:
In collaboration with environmental organizations, local communities, and industry partners, Benetech's Environment Program is exploring open-source technology solutions to help communities address sustainability challenges. The most recent environment initiative, Benetech's Xanhai, is an open-source tool that helps environmentalists more effectively design, monitor, and evaluate conservation projects. By meeting their management and measurement needs, Xanhai helps conservationists apply best practices to their work and achieve better conservation outcomes. In 2014, after growing to a position where it can be self-sufficient, Benetech spun Xanhai off to be independently managed by the conservation community so that it better serves its users. Benetech's Environment Program continues with new sustainability-focused projects, which are currently developed as part of Benetech Labs.

These include a clean water project, whose goals is to strengthen Latin American water organizations to more effectively deliver clean drinking water to communities in need.

Program Long-Term Success:
Program Short-Term Success:
Program Success Monitored by:
Program Success Examples:

Program: Benetech Labs

Budget: --
Category: Engineering & Technology
Population Served: Adults

Program Description:
At any given time, Benetech has dozens of new ideas in our pipeline, coming from staff, donors, users, volunteers, social entrepreneurs, and industry leaders. We establish Benetech Labs in order to establish the feasibility of these ideas, identify which of them could yield a successful product, and develop new technology applications so that, ultimately, we can launch successful new tools that address unmet needs of online communities. See http://benetech.org/our-programs/benetech-labs/

Program Long-Term Success:
Program Short-Term Success:
Program Success Monitored by:
Program Success Examples:

SocialCoding4Good (SC4G), a Benetech Labs initiative, matches highly skilled technology volunteers with humanitarian, open source organizations to deliver better services around the world. Since its launch as a Benetech Labs pilot project in 2012, SocialCoding4Good has become a vibrant community-driven social impact movement. Many volunteers have signed up to volunteer their technical skills. Several hundred have actively contributed time and expertise to help scale the work of twelve nonprofit and partners engaged through the Labs, number of new tools focused on the social good created by other organizations as a result of engagement with the Labs.

Program Success Examples:
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Chief Executive

Mr. James R. Fruchterman
Chief Executive Officer:
Jim Fruchterman is a leading social entrepreneur and founding CEO of Benetech. A technology entrepreneur and engineer, Fruchterman was a rocket scientist, founder of two of the foremost optical character recognition companies, and creator of a number of innovative social enterprises. Fruchterman co-founded Ciera Recognition Systems and RAP Technology, Inc., both of which were based on optical character recognition technology. In 1989, Fruchterman founded Benetech as a different kind of tech company—a nonprofit—with a pure focus on developing technology for the social good. In recognition of his work as a leading social entrepreneur, Fruchterman received the MacArthur Fellowship and the Shell Award for Social Entrepreneurship, and was named a Schwab Social Entrepreneur. He is one of many others who have been recognized for his work in this area.

CEO/Executive Director Statement:
Technology has redefined what’s possible for our society and each week brings news of organizations doing great things with it for the social good. In addition, now more than ever, those who have benefited greatly from technology are giving back. For example, the Giving Pledge campaign that began with efforts by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett is encouraging the world’s wealthiest individuals and families to commit to giving the majority of their wealth to philanthropy. It is a powerful example of this “move now” world we live in, where private resources are deployed to create and sustain public good. So, yes, I do feel optimistic. I believe there’s a growing recognition that the world has become a global village and it’s our responsibility to see to it that all “villagers” can improve their lives. As social entrepreneurship moves from niche to mainstream, and the social enterprise economy grows, Benetech looks forward to growing our impact. There are many social needs that continue to go unmet and we have both a passion and a solid track record of successfully meeting those needs for the benefit of all of humanity. And, I hope more and more of the people behind these technological advances join us in the effort to see to it that all of humanity benefits from our incredible technological innovations. [Extracted from Jim Fruchterman's blog post, "Techology for All: From Gandhi to TED, Part 2"]
http://benetechblogs.org/2013/05/technology-for-all-from-gandhi-to-ted_14.html

Board Chair

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## Board Leadership Practices (GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, June 2018)

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Response</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board Orientation &amp; Education</strong> Does the board conduct a formal orientation for new board members and require all board members to sign a written agreement regarding their roles, responsibilities, and expectations?</td>
<td>Not Provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEO Oversight</strong> Has the board conducted a formal, written assessment of the chief executive within the past year?</td>
<td>Not Provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethics &amp; Transparency</strong> Have the board and senior staff reviewed the conflict-of-interest policy and completed and signed disclosure statements within the past year?</td>
<td>Not Provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board Composition</strong> Does the board ensure an inclusive board member recruitment process that results in diversity of thought and leadership?</td>
<td>Not Provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board Performance</strong> Has the board conducted a formal, written self-assessment of its performance within the past three years?</td>
<td>Not Provided</td>
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