

Software for Good: Empowering Communities in Need

[opening music with text]

Benetech empowers communities in need by creating scalable technology solutions.

Jim Fruchterman, Founder & CEO, Benetech

Silicon Valley people love solving problems.

Our dream at Benetech is to change the equilibrium so that Silicon Valley's benefits flow to all of humanity.

We scan the world for big problems like education, environment, or human rights.

Our model for innovation is to match up a technology solution with that community that's in need, empowering them to go off and solve that problem using the technology.

One of our big areas of focus is Global Literacy and our largest program is Bookshare.

And our goal is to get people with disabilities like blindness and dyslexia the books they need to succeed.

Brian Meersma, Bookshare User

For me, dyslexia just represents struggling to read and write. With Bookshare, I found the joy of reading and being able to explore new things and really get into a book.

Kathy Stratton, Brian's Mother

When he was studying for the ACTs, he used a study guide through Bookshare and now he's a junior at Cornell and he's a Dean's list student at an Ivy League school.

I really don't think he would have been able to make it to college, let alone do so well in college, without having access to Bookshare.

Jim

We play a unique role as a bridge between Silicon Valley and the social sector.

Kampala, Uganda

For our Human Rights Program, Uganda is one of our focus countries.

We've helped the LGBT community there gather the stories of human rights abuses and use that to create reports that actually advocate for change at the national level.

Adrian Juko, Attorney, HRAPF

Benetech is a company that you can work with because it enables us to produce monthly reports – reports of violations over a period of time – and then you can analyze the cases.

Jim

Everything in human rights starts with one person's story.

But when you collect tens of thousands of stories, now that's data.

And we can analyze that data and make powerful cases for patterns of abuse that need policy remedies.

[music with text]

Over 50 countries where thousands of human rights defenders can more safely document violations and achieve justice.

Half a million people with disabilities empowered to read and access information. Over 10,000,000 accessible books delivered.

Jim

[demonstrating Bookshare with a sign language interpreter]

And you can hear the word being spotlighted.

Jim

We really care about the problems that we're going to solve and we're tackling some of the biggest problems faced by disadvantaged communities worldwide.

And so we open up the opportunity to solve these bigger problems to everybody in Silicon Valley. We give them a way to give back.

[closing music with text]

Benetech: Technology Serving Humanity

Learn more: [Benetech.org](https://www.benetech.org)