



# Lending Skills, Changing Lives:

## How SolDevelo Creates Social Impact through Technology Volunteerism

Through our Corporate Partner Program, SocialCoding4Good offers an exciting skills-based volunteering channel for companies' Corporate Social Responsibility, Employee Engagement, or Pro Bono initiatives. Today I'd like to share with you the story of SolDevelo Sp. z o.o., a software outsourcing company based in Gdynia, Poland, and of the difference it makes by lending time and skills to nonprofit initiatives like SocialCoding4Good, and to humanitarian, open source projects like our nonprofit open source partner Frontline SMS. I recently interviewed SolDevelo's Jakub Sławiński about the company's approach to technology volunteerism. Following are the highlights of our conversation:

### **Can you tell me a bit more about SolDevelo, and your program for lending talent?**

SolDevelo Sp. z o.o. is a dynamic software development and information technology outsourcing company, focused on delivering high quality software and innovative solutions. SolDevelo contributes to several social impact projects. Our goal is to help in making the World better place using our technical skills. We use our abilities to improve living conditions and economical situation of societies in developing countries. We believe in Open Source Software and support it since the beginning of existence of the company. At SolDevelo, our employees are encouraged to support and develop Open Source Software projects. Our aim is to take part in improving source code to defeat global poverty and to make a life easier.

### **How do you select projects for group contribution?**

We are trying to participate in the projects that can really change other people lives.

From the other hand the technologies used in the project should be interesting enough to gather developers attention. Last but not least, the non-profit organization should be ready for the cooperation with us - in other words they should know what they want to achieve and have enough resources and willingness to accept deliverables and give constructive feedback.

### **It's obvious, that your gift of time and talent can make a huge impact for non-profits, but what would you say benefits your company in return? To your employees?**

Our employees have the unique possibility to see the real impact of their work. Moreover, the wide spectrum of the projects allows our developers to learn new technologies and to meet people from all over the world. This is also a perfect occasion to see that software development is much more than only writing the code.

**I'm wondering if you have advice for other companies interested cultivating a culture of giving, while still running a business? How can they get started?**

We really recommend social impact involvement. It gives a lot of satisfaction and can provide a huge energy boost and motivation to the company employees. Moreover, it is quite easy to get involved. Everyone can simply choose the project (for example using SocialCoding4Good program) and start working on it. According to our experience, the majority of non-profit organizations are really friendly people that are eager to help at the beginning.

**Can you share your vision for the future if more companies follow your lead in lending skills to impactful projects?**

If more companies participate in the social impact projects, then everyone will get even more benefits. Employees will see that there is something more than the next boring commercial application to develop, and the people will receive better support, that can change not only single lives, but also the whole communities.

**What has been the most rewarding experience for SolDevelo as a 'company who gives back'?**

We have seen in India and Africa that people are really using software we are contributing to. Such knowledge gives a lot of satisfaction and the feeling that our involvement has a lot of sense.

**Finally, is there anything you would like to share with our community, and extended communities about your company, or the people who make up SolDevelo?**

We are encouraging everyone to use some of their spare time and get involved into one of the social impact projects. Moreover, we are always open for new opportunities and interesting challenges, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to talk about potential cooperation. Our sincerest thanks to Jakub for taking the time to talk to us, and to all of SolDevelo for your generous and inspiring donation of talent and time.

*by Emma Irwin, December 8, 2014*



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