IMPACT REPORT: 2021

THIS WAS A BIG YEAR FOR SOFTWARE FOR LOVE

"As an organization, Software For Love sits at an intersection between software development and philanthropy.

On one side, we see the technological innovation that has encapsulated this century in order to make lives easier. On the other side, we see the social sector, a vast network dedicated to improving everyday life. The passion and perseverance of non-profit organizations and small businesses highlight hope but also brings to light the vast inequalities of access to technology and innovation. Finally, there are people who are working towards creating innovative and new solutions to bridge that gap. With our organization's vision of making technology solutions more accessible to everyone in the community, we carry forward our mission of "Spreading Love Through Software"."

(Manvir Kaur Mangat, CMO)

From volunteers, clients, partners, and advisors, we worked together to change the lives of people, and support small businesses and non-profit organizations with software in 2021. Since our official launch in May 2021, we worked with various organizations and volunteers to donate over $5500 to different non-profit organizations. This impact report hopes to highlight our work, company culture, and finally gratitude to all those who actively engaged with Software For Love.

SPREADING LOVE THROUGH SOFTWARE

Table of Contents

A Message from Our Chairman

Faizaan Chishtie

I remember sending out an email in April 2020 to a few students who had shown interest in working in an organization that would bridge the gap between code and community. I was thrilled to hear from a few of them that they would be interested in joining. I remember our first call, our first client, our first win, and our first failure. I could not have imagined that what we had created back then would grow so rapidly into what it is now.

It is surreal to look at Software For Love in January 2022, now being staffed with 50 volunteers and having donated $5500. This would not be possible without our excellent leadership team and hardworking volunteers. Each and every one of their contributions affect the lives of those in need within our communities.

At Software For Love, we have created a community of talented volunteers that know that together they can make a difference.

Congratulations everyone!

About Software For Love

We create software products that make an organization's processes more efficient and improve brand recognition. Starting from any stage of development, SFL is dedicated to creating software solutions that are tailored to your organization. As a team of student volunteers, we aim to provide a variety of affordable technological services such as web development, mobile development, UI/UX design, data analytics, and database management.

Our team consists of like-minded individuals who provide services collaboratively. SFL is successfully delivering software solutions to many clients using a variety of software languages, platforms, and approaches.

We embrace transformation and innovation. We acknowledge the systemic challenges and barriers in using and implementing technology. We want to bring power and support to our communities to digitize their social impact.

SOFTWARE FOR LOVE'S IMPACT IN 2021

Native Women's Association

"The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women."

True North Aid

"True North Aid is dedicated to serving and supporting northern Indigenous communities in Canada through practical humanitarian support."

We were able to donate to both these Indigenous organizations through the carpal tunnel solutions sub-project at uBionics at uOttawa.

Canadian Roots Exchange

"Canadian Roots Exchange [is] a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth who believe that in order to bridge the gap between Canada's peoples and work towards reconciliation, we need to become educated and aware of the teachings, triumphs, and daily realities of Indigenous communities"

We were able to donate to CRE through the RapidRent Project.

CRE
Canadian Roots Exchange

Actua

"Actua helps youth across Canada build critical skills and confidence by providing life-changing science and technology experiences. Actua builds future leaders and innovators by fostering a learning environment built on inclusivity, inspiring all youth to achieve their fullest potential!"

We were able to donate to Actua through the uOttawa Engineering Student Society Project.

actua

SickKids Foundation

Software For Love donated $1000 to celebrate the holidays. We donated funds to the Toy and Game Fund.

"The SickKids Foundation Toy and Game Fund enable our Child Life team to purchase toys that help healing throughout the year. These toys and games are used primarily for the purposes of recreation and therapeutic play."

SickKids®

Hrithik Shah (Former CEO now Director)

At the start of 2021, Software For Love had about 15 volunteers including the executive members. Our only real project was the website we made to showcase our services.

Taking over as CEO, I knew there needed to be a burst of momentum to motivate current volunteers and attract new members. We started slow, getting a project in May, then two more in July and then one of our biggest clients in September. Along the way, our team also grew to an immense 50 volunteers. Our team is something that I'm most proud of, we got people all over Canada, and even some internationally looking to help non-profits and charities. I'm always surprised by the level of talent I see from the volunteers. Being able to foster our volunteers' growth is one of the founding principles of SFL and I think one of the major reasons for our success to date.

Giving Back to the Community

There are many ways of giving back to the community other than just money. Within the past few months, Software For Love members participated in two community panels discussing their education paths into engineering. Panel discussions combine all of the different elements from Software For Love: providing learning opportunities, a chance to network, and giving back to the community.

Tech & Engineering Panelists
@Markham4Youth
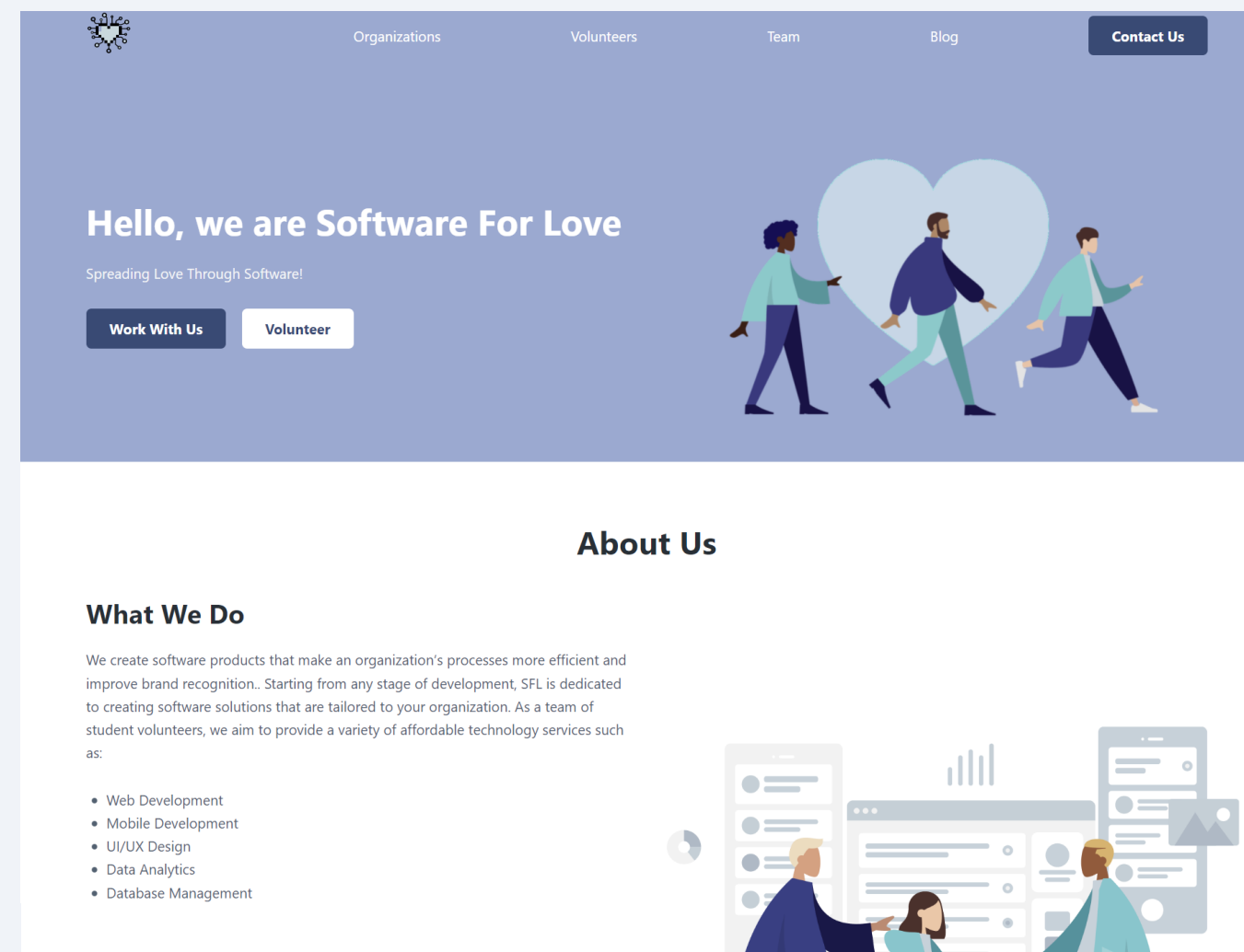This Saturday @ 12:30 PM

Thank you!

Our Finances

Total Inflow: $14 926
- Google Ads Grant
- Client Work with ESS, Rapid Rent and Santropol Roulant

Total Outflow: $5 820
- Donations to Native Women's Association, True North Aid, Canadian Roots Exchange, SickKids Foundation
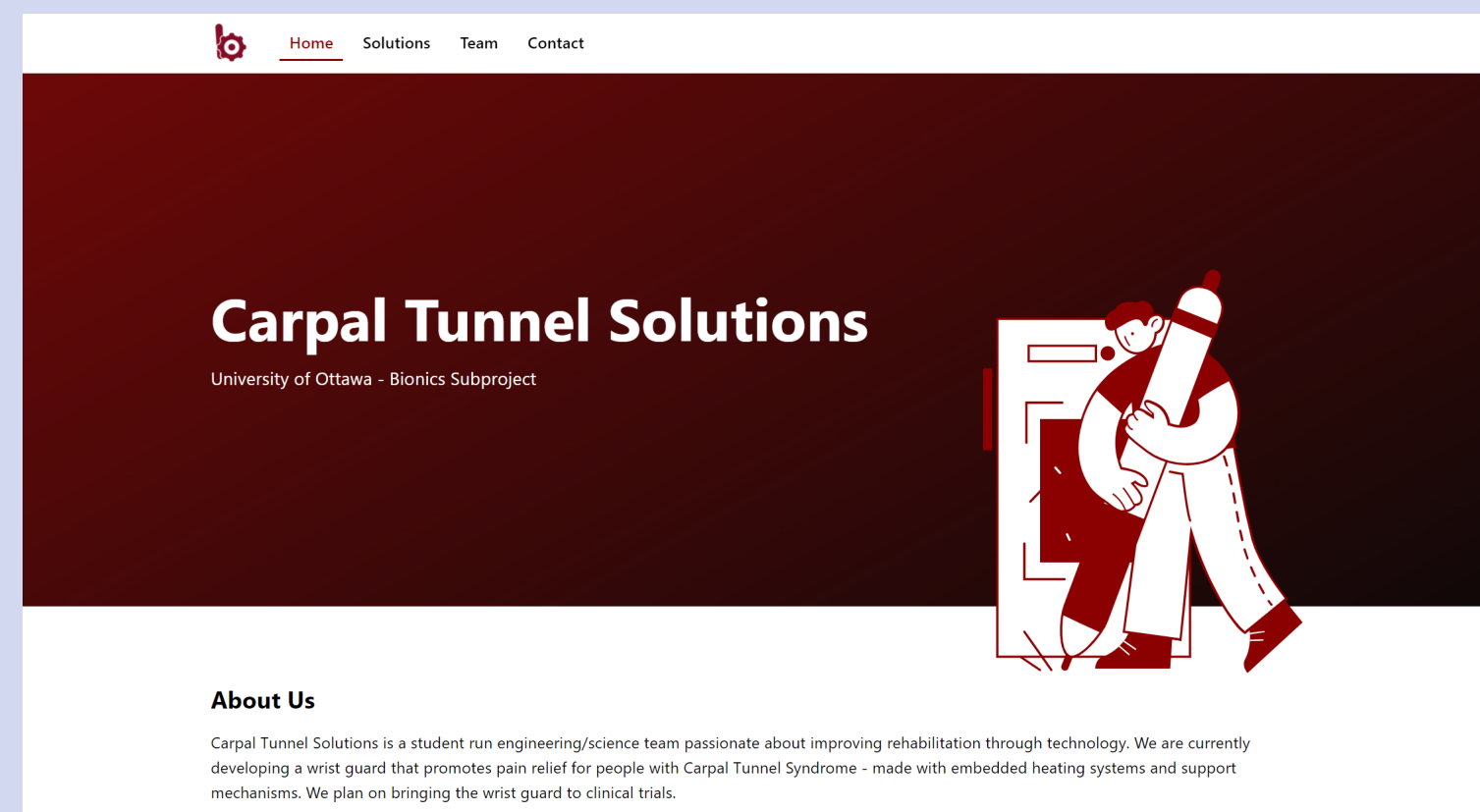- Software For Love's Documentation, Trademark, and Domain

"I am very proud of what we have accomplished over these past several months. As we continue to grow as an organization, we must take a look at the bigger picture. In the world of software development, non-profits and charities are often overlooked or unsupported due to the lack of funding they receive. Therefore, our goal is to work more closely with these non-profits and charities to provide them with the software support they need." **Jacob Cleyson (Former CFO now Director)**

Our Projects

From initial discussions, to design, development, and then hand-off, Software For Love strives to use our knowledge and abilities to help our partners solve problems within our community. All team members worked collaboratively to keep projects on track, maintain strong relationships with the clients, and maintain a strong company culture.

In order to do so, we needed a website! Our very first project was developing and designing our website. This was the first step in establishing Software For Love as an organization and building our organization's credibility.

uOttawa uBionics Carpal Tunnel Solutions
By: Dharitri Dixit (Former Project Manager now CTO)

The Carpal Tunnel Solutions team at uBionics at the uOttawa, is a student-run team that is developing a wrist guard for those with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS). They required a website to effectively showcase what their team does, who they are, and relevant projects. The client needed a website that they need to submit to an ethics committee.

SFL designed a responsive layout with four unique pages displaying a welcome message, past and current solutions that the carpal team has implemented, the members of the uBionics team at uOttawa, and a contact us page to get interested people to apply to the team. The site was created using React.js and hosted on Netlify. Interactive elements like slideshows and videos were implemented using sophisticated node packages, while general layout schemes and member cards were implemented using HTML and CSS. Overall, SFL was able to provide a completed and hosted website within a span of only 2 months, while ensuring that all client needs were met."

RapidRent
By: Hrithik Shah (Former CEO now Director)

RapidRent is a startup and for-profit organization based out of Ottawa working to simplify the renting process. Our team created a landing site that showcased the RapidRent product, a login experience that supports Google and Facebook login, a subscription service handled using Stripe, and functionality related to renting a property. The client gave us freedom on what technologies we wanted to employ for the project. We decided to use the MEAN tech stack (MongoDB, Express, Angular and Node.js). The team also used Stripe. Once the payment service was completed, user authentication was the next obstacle. We used Google and Facebook to support this process.

Usually Software For Love hands off a completed project, however in this case RapidRent wanted to continue developing the project on its own. SFL was employed to create the foundations for future development.

Santropol Roulant

Santropol Roulant is a non-profit organization based in Montreal that creates social and economic inclusion between generations using food. They are a community food hub that brings together people through various programs, activities, and services.

Software For Love is creating a web scheduling application. We are offering our technical expertise where we can. This is our first project working with a non-profit organization and it will be continuing into 2022.

uOttawa Engineering Student Society

(Loic Kandikandi, Project Manager and Software Developer)

The Engineering Students' Society of the University of Ottawa (ESS) is an organization [whose] goal is to improve the Engineering Student Experience at Ottawa. [They] provide resources and services, [and] plan events where students get to network with professionals in the industry. ESS had been maintaining their website using WordPress, [but wanted to] revamp their website using modern frameworks.

The first phase of the project consisted of creating design wireframes [and] the following phase of the project was development.

Developers built the website using the Gatsby framework and the industry-standard React UI component library Ant Design. With a remarkable will and dynamism, the developers succeeded in building a 20-page website, adapted to French and English-speaking readers, within the deadline. During the project handoff meeting, alongside the codebase was submitted detailed documentation written by the project manager highlighting the website architecture and instructions on how to make changes if needed.
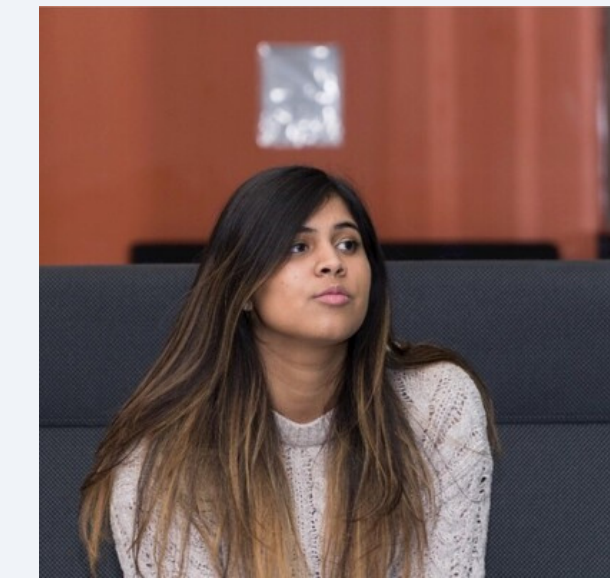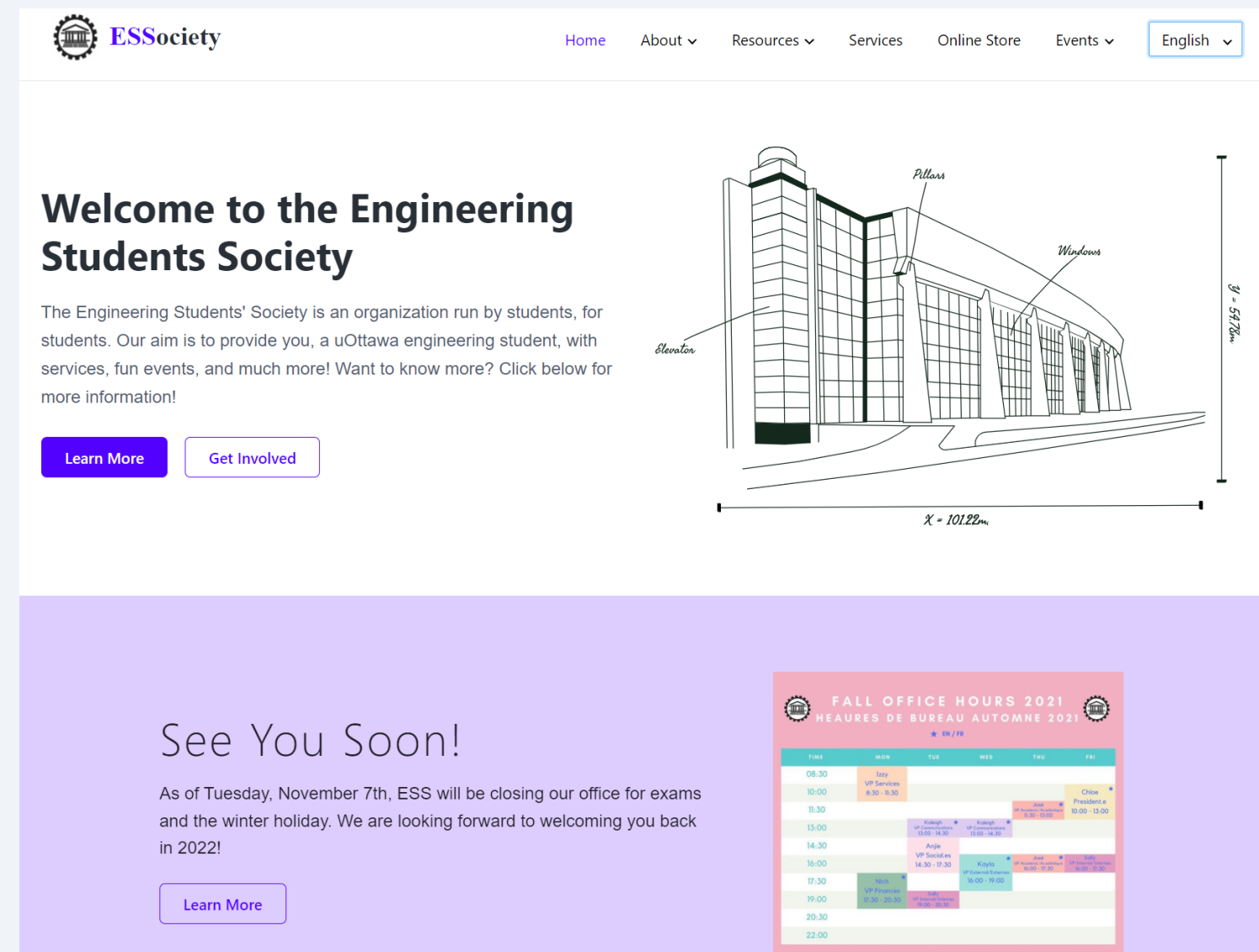

Dharitri Dixit (Former Project Manager now CTO)

It has been a year of evolving for us, we've made a lot of positive strides as an organization. We've evolved in terms of the number of volunteers, number of projects, and donations made.

The tech team has grown by stepping out of our comfort zone in terms of the languages and platforms we use. We've successfully researched and used a lot of new technical tools as it allowed us to put forward the best possible version of a project. I hope we can continue to do so in the upcoming year.

The Humans Project

(Fatimah Vakily, Project Manager and Designer)

Humans is an internal project to Software for Love (SFL), meant to be a place for activists to present their voices on issues they are passionate about. Inspired by several movements such as Black Lives Matter and Stop Asian Hate telling our society to speak up and stand up for what is right, the members of SFL wanted to contribute by creating this website as a platform for activists opposing injustice of any kind, especially those working against racial discrimination and oppression.

Though this project is a work in progress, we have a team of great developers now working to bring to life the concepts that were planned for the Humans website.
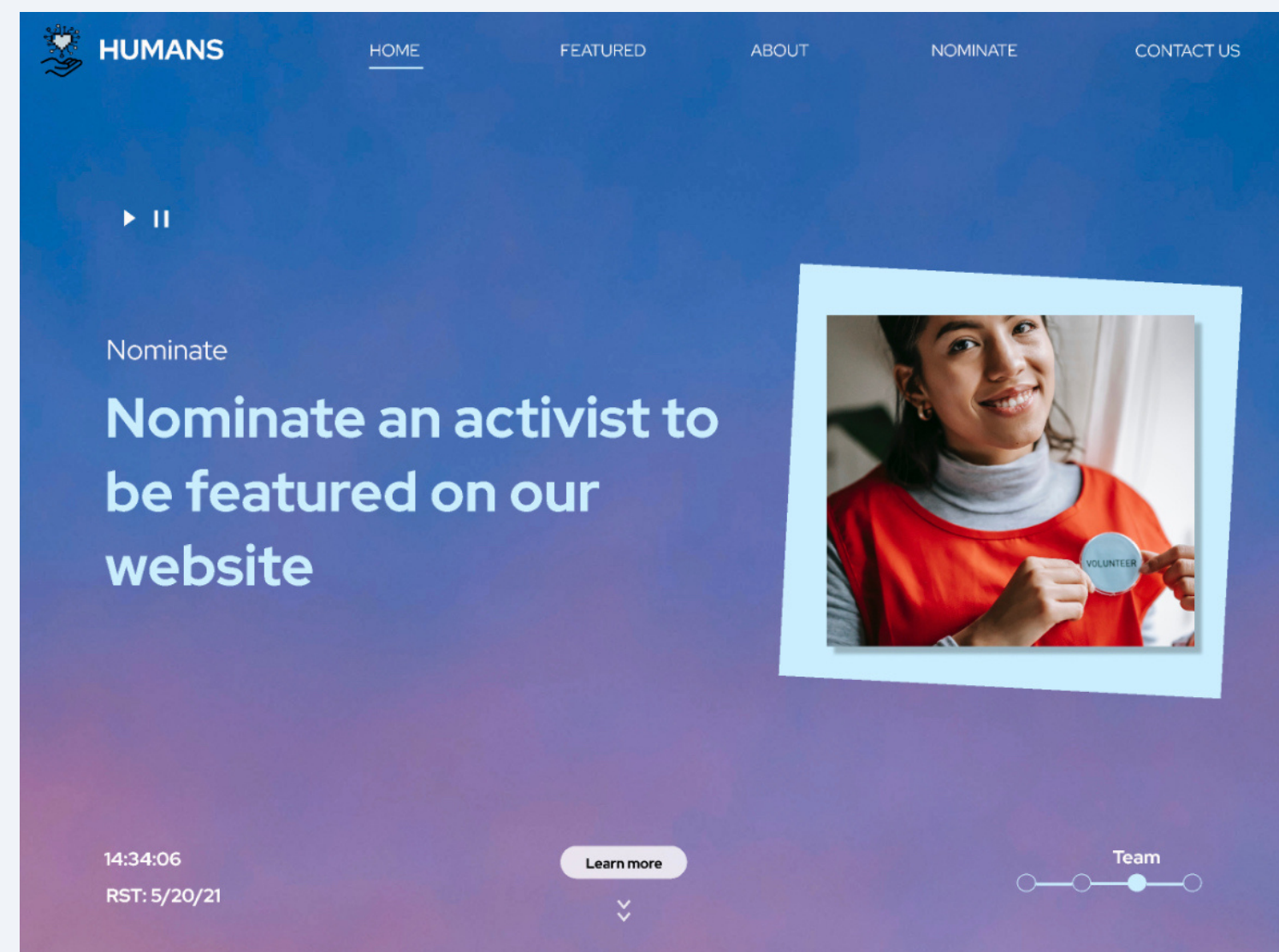
It is our goal to not rush this project, but to carefully prepare it to the best of our abilities into a website that can easily be updated and maintained by the marketing team who will decide the content of the text to display on the website. We aim to create a website where users can nominate people and have them featured on our page, therefore giving them a good platform to speak up for what they believe in. We also hope that through this project we are able to follow our motto here at Software for Love to "spread love through software", and to make a positive difference with our work.

Soorya Saravanapavan (Former CTO now CEO)

In 2021, the tech team at Software For Love laid the groundwork necessary to prove our vision of *Spreading Love Through Software* was possible. We were able to construct wonderful teams of PMs, developers, and designers that truly believed in our vision and were motivated to create these solutions. After developing a website for the uBionics Carpal Tunnel Syndrome team within 6 weeks, we were confident that we could take on larger and more advanced projects. By the end of the year, we completed 4 projects! This is an incredible milestone and has created the foundation that we needed to expand our impact within the community in 2022!
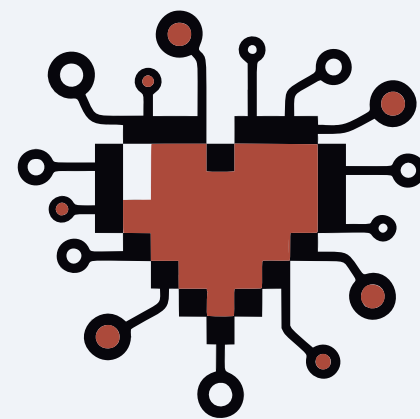
We Couldn't Have Done This Alone...

"Software For Love aims to empower charities and other non-profits by providing software solutions with our student-led teams. Our volunteers come from across the world driven to make a positive impact in the community and get the opportunity to build their portfolios with real-world experience. While providing service to the community is at our core, balance is also key. This means we give equal importance to relaxing and having fun."

(Suhavi Garg, CFO)

We would not be where we are today without the kindness and generosity of volunteers, advisors, and partners. A special thank you goes to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to make projects come to fruition. At every turn, the team provided mechanisms to guarantee that deadlines are fulfilled and that high-quality work is produced. Volunteers are the ones out there delivering different solutions to communities every day. Without volunteers, there would be no impact.
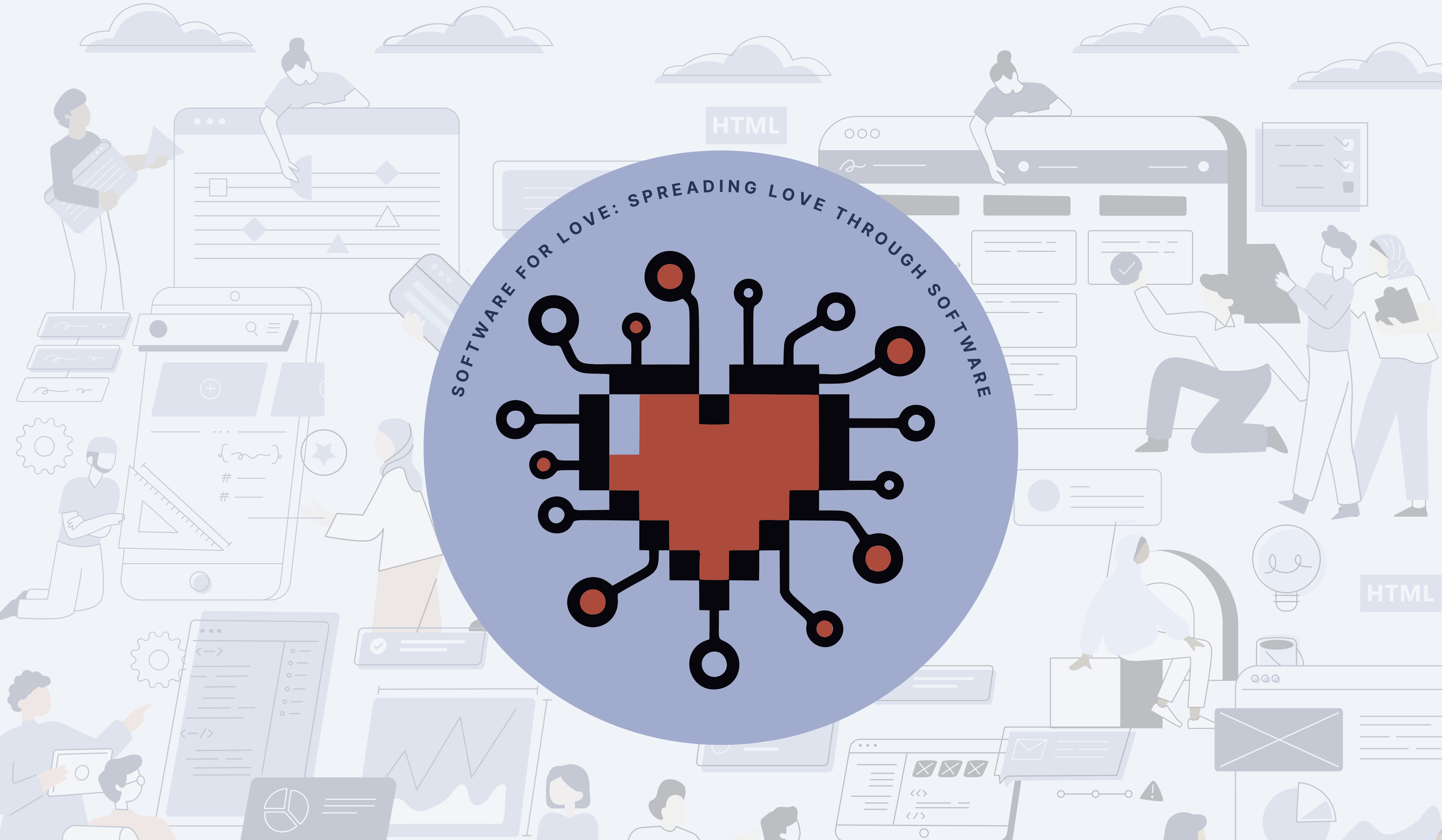
So we end 2021 with a big thank you to you.

Thank you to:

Abilaash Uthayachandran	Cem Gurel	Jasmine Kokkat
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Roshani Wright	Xinyi Wang
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Smita Singh	Zohair Ahmed

Thank you to our partners:

snyk techsoup Canva

SOFTWARE FOR LOVE: SPREADING LOVE THROUGH SOFTWARE

Software for Love acknowledges that many Indigenous nations have a long-standing relationship with the territories upon where Software for Love was founded. Ottawa is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin People. We are grateful to be present in this territory and we acknowledge the troublesome history Canada has with Indigenous people nationwide.

Designed by: Manvir Kaur Mangat
Edited by: Alysse Mills and Syeda Azad