

Code For Good

by
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I have an engineering mindset and love to solve problems, but I also value using that knowledge in meaningful ways that will benefit society. My mom is from Cambodia and through her, I have a deep connection with the people of Cambodia. I always wanted to help the poor there somehow but felt there was so little I could do on the other side of the world. I decided to work at my dad's company, Lahuna, and build a website that creates referrals for a taxi driver in Siem Reap, Cambodia that my mom knows. His name is Kimlean, and he uses the money he earns as a taxi driver to pay for food and education for poverty-stricken children at a school he runs. Kimlean believes that by teaching kids English, they will be better prepared for a career in tourism by the time they are adults. Siem Reap is home of the world famous Angkor Wat Temple and the growth in tourism there provides Cambodians the opportunity to work in higher paying jobs. Creating this website was the perfect work experience for me because I was able to do something I am good at, and love doing while helping less-fortunate people thousands of miles away. Because software can be created remotely and can be implemented on a global scale, I believe computer science offers me the potential to create technology that can help a great number of people no matter where they are in the world.

To succeed, engineers must first understand the problems they are trying to solve. Not only do they need technical expertise, but they must be grounded and have a broad knowledge of social sciences and humanities. A college education will help me become a well-rounded, socially aware computer scientist that can address challenges people face, on a personal level. I hope to participate in research and internship opportunities that apply what I learn in the classroom to real-world projects where technology is used to make a positive impact on the world.