

Leadership In Action

EdTech and Youth Development in the Heart of Bali

BACKGROUND OF BALI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Bali looks like paradise if you're staying at a beach resort, but step outside the tourist strip and it's a different story. I saw this myself: government money for roads, schools, jobs mostly stays near the tourist areas, while rural villages get left behind, and education is usually what suffers most. That gap is why Margaret Barry started the Bali Children's Foundation in 2002, convinced that Bali's lack of education was tied to the poverty and unrest she witnessed after that year's bombings. Over 20+ years, BCF has grown from a small local effort into one reaching thousands of students across dozens of villages across the island of Bali.



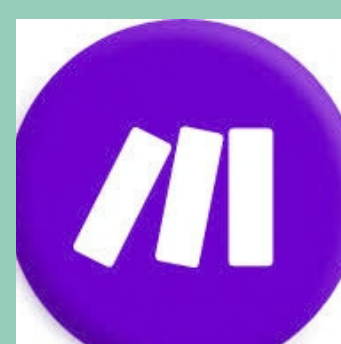
DATABASE INFRASTRUCTURE

Kobo



Kobo (Kobo Toolbox) is a free, offline mobile data collection tool, and BCF used it to gather literacy, numeracy, and attendance data directly from schools and villages in the field.

Make



Make.com is a no-code automation platform that connects disparate applications and services, using webhooks to automatically trigger workflows the moment new data is submitted.

Airtable



Airtable is a cloud-based platform that combines the flexibility of a spreadsheet with the structure of a relational database, allowing users to organize, link, and visualize data across multiple tables.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?

I designed and implemented an automated data pipeline connecting BCF's Kobo data collection forms directly to Airtable via webhook integration, ensuring that every form submission from the field was instantly and accurately captured in the database. To maintain data integrity, I structured the system so each student was recorded as a unique individual record, eliminating duplicate entries and reducing spelling or transcription errors introduced during manual field data collection. I also configured the Kobo form to automatically calculate test scores at the point of input, so only finalized totals populated the Airtable database, keeping the dataset clean and analysis-ready.

Using TypeScript, I built a custom dashboard within Airtable tailored to BCF's key performance indicators, significantly streamlining the report generation process for stakeholders. The system was designed to retain historical score records for each student across academic years, enabling longitudinal tracking of individual academic progress over time. By fully automating the data flow from field collection to database storage, the pipeline eliminated manual data entry, minimizing human error and administrative overhead.

After pitching this solution to BCF's CEO and CFO, it was approved before the end of my internship. The system is projected to benefit over 5,000 current students, as well as all future students sponsored through the foundation.



BEYOND THE OFFICE WORK

Uni Ready

I mentored a group of recent high school graduates preparing to enter university, guiding them on how to navigate the transition, what challenges to anticipate, and how to develop effective study habits and strategies for academic success.

English Teaching

I traveled to North Bali twice to train local English teachers on more effective teaching methods for their students, an experience that highlighted the teachers' dedication to helping their students succeed despite significant resource and language barriers.

AI Workshop

I taught students about the practical applications of AI, covering both its benefits and limitations, while emphasizing the risks of over-reliance on the technology and how to use it responsibly and effectively for university.

Schools

I visited a deaf school, witnessed firsthand the impact of BCF's work on children with disabilities, which brought a full-circle sense of connection between the systems I built in the office and the real-world outcomes they helped create in the community.

HANDOVER AND LONGEVITY OF LIA



To ensure the sustainability of my contributions beyond my time at BCF, I documented the systems I built and handed over clear processes so the data pipeline, dashboards, and reporting tools could continue running smoothly without requiring ongoing technical oversight. This continuity means the automation will keep supporting BCF's operations well into the future, benefiting not only the 5,000+ students currently enrolled but every future student the foundation sponsors.

Beyond the technical work, this experience was genuinely life-changing. Between building the data infrastructure, mentoring students, training teachers in North Bali, and visiting the deaf school, I saw the full arc of BCF's impact, from raw data to real classrooms to real lives changed. It opened my eyes to how meaningful, lasting change in under-resourced communities often comes from unglamorous, structural work: the systems and processes that quietly make everything else possible. This experience has fundamentally shaped how I want to contribute to communities like Bali's going forward.

FINAL THOUGHTS AND REFLECTION

Working in these developing communities taught me as much about myself as it did about BCF's mission. It forced me to reflect on my own privilege, and how differently opportunity is distributed – not just in Bali, but everywhere. I also learned about workplace dynamics, how colleagues navigate the mundane realities of daily work while still finding ways to connect. What struck me most, though, was the overwhelming positivity within these underprivileged communities. The English teachers I trained moved me deeply despite limited English proficiency themselves, their determination to help the next generation succeed showed a selflessness I won't forget.

