



# The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

## Final Copy of Case Study

**Status:**

Laureate

**Year:**

2013

**Organization Name:**

Watsi

**Organization URL:**

[www.watsi.org](http://www.watsi.org)

**Project Name:**

Watsi Launch

**Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry:**

Human Services

**Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)**

All over the world people are dying of treatable illnesses because they can't afford basic medical care. Watsi connects you with patients in serious need of low-cost medical care and enables you to fund high-impact treatments. They connect with medical partners who are dedicated to offering critical health services to patients in poorer regions of the world and help them save the lives of those who cannot afford services even at their reduced, bare-bones pricing. Watsi is offering people around the globe a chance to make a tangible difference in the world. They are enabling their users to reach out to neighbors in poorer nations and spread hope and goodwill. They are changing the lives of both their users and the people who are in desperate need of help.

**When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)**

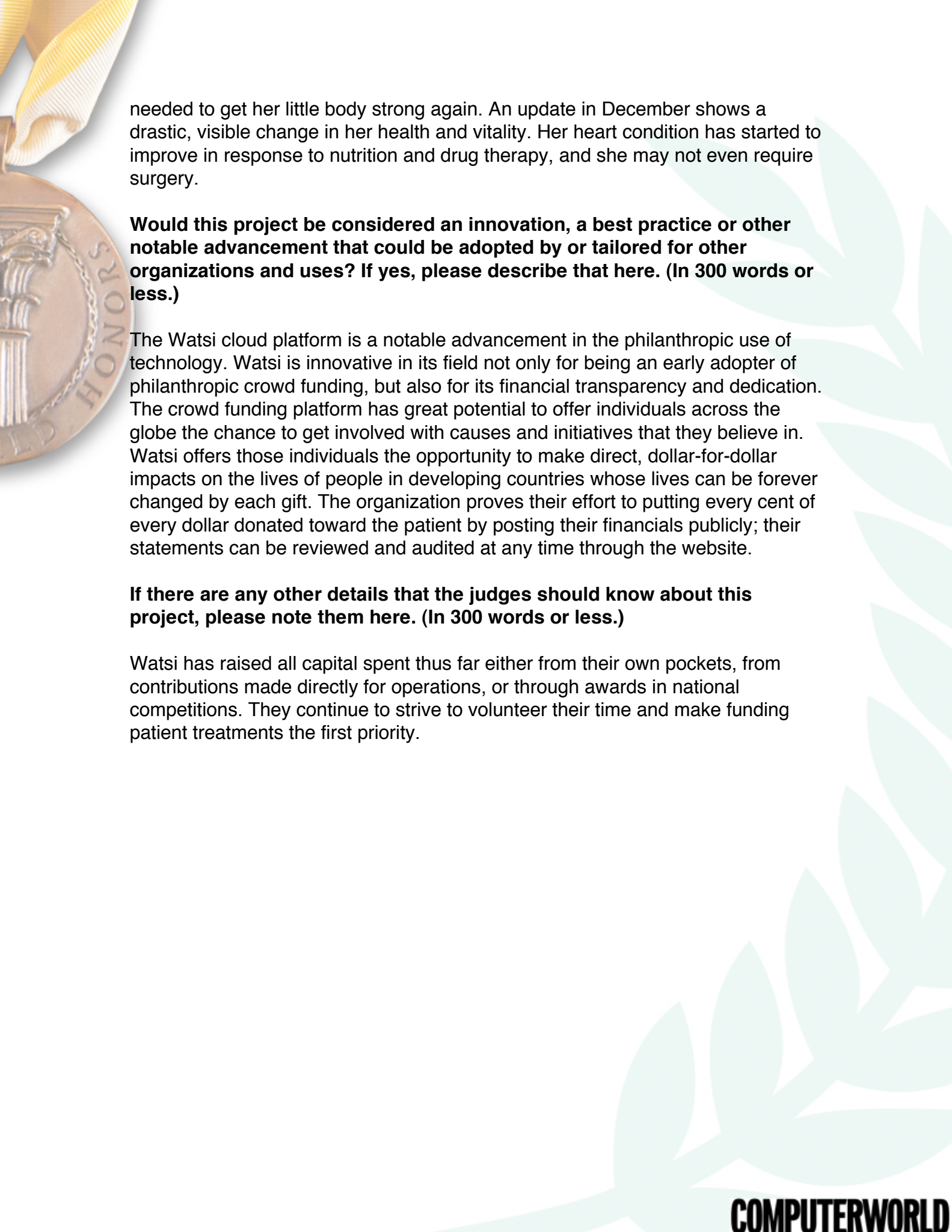
The Watsi crowd funding website was launched and began funding patient treatments in August of 2012 after beginning its pilot phase in June. Since then it has fully funded treatment for 44 patients. Beyond a continued social media marketing campaign and various media releases, Watsi has focused in two areas since its launch: extending partnerships with medical providers in additional countries and adding new patient profiles to fund.

**Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)**

The project to launch the crowd-funding website was completed in August of 2012.

**Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)**

Bageshwori is a 12-year-old girl from Achham, Nepal. She needs heart surgery to replace her mitral valve, the valve between the two left chambers of the heart, and allow her to breathe freely again. Bageshwori has rheumatic heart disease, a potentially fatal heart condition resulting from a previously untreated throat infection. Her condition prevents blood from effectively moving through her heart, making her short of breath and unable to live a fully active life. Without treatment, this condition may continue to worsen, causing congestive heart failure, and even death. Bageshwori is energetic and positive, and does her best to remain active despite her increasing physical limitations. Bageshwori's surgery will cost \$1,125. The average per capita income in Achham is \$1 per day. Thanks to Watsi, her treatment was fully funded during the pilot and has been scheduled to occur this month (December 2012) through their partner Nyaya Health. Sandy is a 1-year-old girl who has a ventricular septal defect, a form of congenital heart disease. Sandy's condition causes her to suffer from labored breathing, fatigue, and general weakness. Without treatment, it will likely result in heart failure. In addition to her heart defect, Sandy is severely malnourished. Her family is too impoverished to provide her with adequate food, and she needs nutritional rehabilitation to get her strong enough to undergo the surgery that has already been offered by a health organization in Guatemala. Watsi donors quickly funded her profile in September, providing the medication and nutritional supplements

A gold medal with a ribbon is visible in the top left corner. The medal features a classical architectural design and the word "HONORS" is partially visible. A large, light green laurel wreath graphic is positioned on the right side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom.

needed to get her little body strong again. An update in December shows a drastic, visible change in her health and vitality. Her heart condition has started to improve in response to nutrition and drug therapy, and she may not even require surgery.

**Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)**

The Watsi cloud platform is a notable advancement in the philanthropic use of technology. Watsi is innovative in its field not only for being an early adopter of philanthropic crowd funding, but also for its financial transparency and dedication. The crowd funding platform has great potential to offer individuals across the globe the chance to get involved with causes and initiatives that they believe in. Watsi offers those individuals the opportunity to make direct, dollar-for-dollar impacts on the lives of people in developing countries whose lives can be forever changed by each gift. The organization proves their effort to putting every cent of every dollar donated toward the patient by posting their financials publicly; their statements can be reviewed and audited at any time through the website.

**If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)**

Watsi has raised all capital spent thus far either from their own pockets, from contributions made directly for operations, or through awards in national competitions. They continue to strive to volunteer their time and make funding patient treatments the first priority.