I get an enormous amount from being in SBT. It’s the engagement with absolutely first-class business leaders, working with a highly impactful SBT organisation and, crucially for me, seeing the impact on the social enterprises. That’s incredibly rewarding and satisfying.

Paul Armstrong, Principal, Permira, uses his business expertise through SBT to support The Challenge, which has grown from helping 3,200 young people a year to over 47,000 in just six years.

VOLUNTEERING REINVENTED

The Business Benefits of Helping Social Enterprises Grow

CONTACT US

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Volunteering with SBT has made me a better consultant. Doing these short, sharp projects with smaller businesses – I’m used to working with blue chips – has brought another dimension to my consulting that I can take back into my workplace.

Stephen Lambert, Partner and Head of Advisory Services, EY, uses his business expertise through SBT to help Shakespeare Schools Foundation scale-up its work transforming thousands of young lives.
If you’re excited by the prospect of your company’s people using their professional expertise to help great social enterprises grow - whilst developing their own skills and network - we’d love to hear from you.

Adele Blakebrough MBE, CEO and Co-Founder, Social Business Trust
SKILLS VOLUNTEERING: THE BUSINESS BENEFITS

Our corporate partners get many benefits from being part of SBT. Foremost is the greater positive social impact they achieve from collaborating through us.

Since 2010, with SBT’s support, including over 30,000 hours of volunteer business expertise, our social enterprises have helped over 1.5 million people in need.

Their corporate partnership with SBT also makes sense commercially. Through SBT, senior leaders and their employees get:

• New learnings
• New perspectives
• New relationships

The result? An outstanding return on their investment and a stronger contribution to society.

NEW LEARNINGS

DEVELOP TALENT

Experiential learning is engaging and exciting. Our volunteers develop their expertise and boost their careers by doing: using their existing skills in new contexts, taking on stretch assignments, or applying broader competencies than their specialist corporate role requires.

BROADEN BUSINESS KNOW-HOW

Employees in larger companies are often functional specialists, for example in IT, finance or marketing. The smaller scale of social enterprises means our volunteers can develop an end-to-end view of a dynamic, growing business in a sector adjacent to those in which they usually work.

NEW PERSPECTIVES

CULTIVATE WELLBEING

Contributing to society makes people feel valued. That increases their sense of self-worth and reduces stress, promoting and nurturing positive mental health. Our volunteers’ impact is significant and long-lasting, so the feeling of wellbeing is sustained.

DEVELOP TALENT

NEW RELATIONSHIPS

GROW NETWORKS

By collaborating to help great social enterprises grow, our world-class corporate partners build and strengthen professional relationships with each other, including at senior levels. Networks are also expanded through engagement with the leaders and boards of our social enterprises.

EXCEED HORIZONS

Being exposed to new experiences in a positive way is energising. Our volunteers highlight the benefits of encountering different issues, people and environments, whether they do so from their desk or by getting out of the office.

UNDERSTAND CUSTOMERS

Our social enterprises support many people facing challenges, from children needing a better start to elderly individuals living alone. Encountering those real-life situations helps our volunteers develop emotional intelligence and ultimately better understand customers in diverse situations.

ATTRACT AND RETAIN GREAT PEOPLE

People increasingly want to work for businesses with a purpose beyond delivering financial returns. Our volunteers often tell us they view their company more positively – and are influenced to stay there – because of its support for SBT and what that offers them.

FOSTER DIVERSITY

Embracing diversity in its broadest sense is vital for business leaders today. Our volunteers experience diversity in action, across gender, ethnicity, background and ways of thinking. They also build their understanding of different social issues that impact business, from educational disadvantage to mental health.

EXPAND BOARD EXPERIENCE

Joining the board of a social enterprise provides excellent experience of governance and non-executive leadership. It also offers prime networking opportunities as well as deep exposure to a societal issue, whether social integration, offender rehabilitation or poverty.

SBT BRINGS A BETTER DIMENSION TO OUR WORK AND ENABLES ME AND CLIFFORD CHANCE TO PUT BACK INTO SOCIETY. TO OTHER BUSINESS LEADERS THINKING OF GETTING INVOLVED, DON’T JUST THINK – DO.

“Michael Crossan,
Partner,
Clifford Chance”
MENTAL HEALTH ENCOUNTER MOVES INVESTMENT SPECIALIST

Both Jack Alcock’s parents were NHS mental health nurses and, as he says, “the issue is close to my heart”. So when Twining Enterprise wanted support to scale-up, Jack was keen to help.

As a growth-focused Investment Professional at Permira, he had plenty of relevant business experience to offer Twining, which helps people with mental health challenges to find, or stay in, meaningful work.

In addition to meeting management, reviewing documents and crunching data, Jack made time to see Twining in action at a North London hospital: “It’s easy to read through papers and understand things at a conceptual level but often what’s missing is that human connection that you get from seeing what they’re doing,” he said.

Meeting a man with schizophrenia was particularly moving: “He had not known what to do with his life but now he was talking about his aspirations and knew where he fitted into society. He had found a job in a charity shop and for him it meant the world. He even had a road map of the future in his mind: I thought it was incredible.”

Twining were delighted with the help received and Jack found the experience valuable too: “There aren’t many charitable organisations with the entrepreneurial mindset that SBT has. To directly use the skills that I have in my day job and apply them in a social enterprise is really rewarding.”

Volunteering also brought professional benefits. Through SBT he was paired with Vineet Khurana, then Chief Financial Officer at IBM UK and Ireland. Working together to help Twining develop a business plan provided additional learning and networking opportunities for them both.

Jack’s grateful to Permira for making it possible: “I think the partners recognise that doing things outside of the sphere of your work is good for you personally and great for society as a whole.”

VOLUNTEER VALUES

Our volunteers tell us that helping social enterprises through SBT makes them more likely to stay with their firm.

There aren’t many charitable organisations with the entrepreneurial mindset that SBT has. To directly use the skills that I have in my day job and apply them in a social enterprise is really rewarding.

Jack Alcock, Investment Professional, Permira

SBT has helped Twining to
FORMULATE A NEW VISION
and 3 year strategic plan and understand the path to ensure financial stability. It’s also supported Twining’s significant organisational development programme.

Twining provides services across
8 LONDON BOROUGHS

including in GP surgeries, hospitals, job centres and workplaces.
BID SPECIALISTS BROADEN HORIZONS BY USING KNOWLEDGE IN NEW WAYS

Managing bids for multimillion pound government contracts may seem poles apart from helping young people with diverse backgrounds to become engaged, responsible citizens.

But those worlds come together through the work two Thomson Reuters experts are doing with The Challenge, the UK’s leading charity for building a more integrated society.

The Challenge is getting ready to tender to retain its role as a major delivery partner for the government’s National Citizen Service programme for young people. Through SBT, government bid specialists Joanne Fowler and Laurent Briant are helping them each step of the way.

It’s proving to be a very worthwhile partnership. As Joanne says: “We don’t know their business very well but we know how to win government contracts. So we can hand-hold, sanity check and mirror back to them what they’re good at and what makes them unique.”

Laurent says it’s satisfying to use their expertise like this: “When you do a lot of activity around government bids it becomes normal and you don’t regard it as a specific skill. Spending time with a team that don’t do that activity every day highlights what we’re really good at.”

“It’s very motivating and rewarding to take your skills somewhere else where you can really make a difference.”

Rebecca Carter, Director of Organisational Strategy at The Challenge, says Joanne and Laurent’s contribution is indispensable: “Their expertise and enthusiasm shines through in terms of process, approach and specific resources required. We are so grateful for their absolutely invaluable support.”

After completing the National Citizen Service with The Challenge, young people show greater:

+ UNDERSTANDING - 7 in 10 understand the challenges and experiences of people different to them
+ COLLABORATION - 7 in 10 are more confident working with people different to them
+ RESPECT - 7 in 10 think about their own attitudes to people different to them.

175,000 young people have taken part in The Challenge’s programmes since 2009, giving 1 million hours of volunteering to their communities in 2017 alone.

100% would like to volunteer again with SBT

With SBT’s support, The Challenge has, in 6 years, grown from helping 3,200 young people a year to over 47,000.

The Challenge has received over £2.5 million worth of in-kind and cash support from SBT to grow. Help included strategy development, legal advice, IT support, programme management and mentoring.
STRATEGY PARTNER FINDS ENERGY AND INSPIRATION FROM VOLUNTEERING HER SKILLS

Sophie Horrocks has lots going on, juggling a demanding career at Bain & Company with activities outside work. So when a colleague asked if she would be interested in supporting The Brilliant Club through SBT, she was wary of taking on too much.

Yet there was something about the opportunity that made her want to find out more.

The Brilliant Club supports under-represented pupils to progress to highly-selective universities. It does this by mobilising the PhD community to share its academic expertise with non-selective state schools.

For Sophie, who has a PhD in Physical Chemistry, it was an ideal fit: “A mission centred in social mobility using the passion and energy of the PhD community resonated with me.”

Meeting their CEO, Chris Wilson, increased her excitement about the opportunity: “He was inspiring and his desire to make a difference was infectious.”

Her immediate role was to help The Brilliant Club prepare its pitch to SBT’s Investment Committee for support. The result was a package of in-kind and cash support worth £800,000, which she now oversees delivery of.

Sophie was “thrilled” by the outcome: “I was excited that such a powerful mission and model had the opportunity to be supercharged with investment and guidance.”

“The personal satisfaction from shaping a part of their destiny and helping Chris has been amazing.”

Chris is extremely positive too: “As well as a clear passion for our work, Sophie offered a fresh perspective informed by years of experience. Her advice was clear-sighted and made an instant impact. I am so excited about continuing the partnership as we scale-up the charity’s work.”

VOLUNTEER VALUES

Our volunteers tell us that helping social enterprises through SBT improves their mental wellbeing

SOFT BUSINESS TRUST – VOLUNTEERING REINVENTED

DO IT! IT’S HUGELY REWARDING. FIND SOMETHING THAT’S RELEVANT TO YOU AND DON’T WAIT FOR ‘THE RIGHT TIME’. JUST SAY YES BECAUSE IT IS ENERGISING AND WILL INSPIRE YOU IN WHAT YOU DO DAY-TO-DAY. IT HAS BEEN A THOROUGHLY BROADENING AND ENGAGING EXPERIENCE FOR ME.

Sophie Horrocks, Partner, Bain & Company

PUPILS

Last year The Brilliant Club worked with 11,081 pupils in 605 non-selective state schools.

Pupils who completed The Brilliant Club’s Scholars Programme were significantly more likely to progress to a highly-selective university than peers who did not take part*

74% received an offer from a highly selective university
55% progressed to a highly-selective university
54% of those receiving free school meals progressed to a highly-selective university compared to a national average of 12%.

* From a matched control group analysis by UCAS of Year 12 pupils.

SBT awarded The Brilliant Club in-kind and cash support worth £800,000 TO SCALE-UP

£800,000

£
TAX EXPERT’S VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE MAKES A LASTING CONTRIBUTION

Although summer can be quiet at work for Ismail Bhamjee, an International Tax Adviser at EY, last August was different. It wasn’t that more corporate clients suddenly required his expertise but Shakespeare Schools Foundation (SSF) needed professional support to make a first-time Theatre Tax Relief claim and, through SBT, Ismail volunteered to help them.

SSF uses the power of Shakespeare to transform the lives of young people across the UK. Ismail spent a week at SSF’s London base helping to prepare their case: “They needed someone to assist them with the computation process, go through large volumes of data and create an Excel tool to assist in the process each year,” he said.

“Everyone at SSF was very happy and lively and it was a lovely office to work in. It’s really good to meet new people.”

Ismail enjoyed learning about SSF’s far-reaching impact: “I was astonished by the number of schools they work with. It’s great to know they can achieve so much by giving students an immersive Shakespeare experience.”

“It puts things in perspective when just going in for a week can make such a difference to an organisation.”

He certainly made his mark: thanks to Ismail’s work, SSF successfully claimed £120,000 in tax relief last year – a huge sum for them – and are well set to claim similar annual amounts for years to come.

Ruth Brock, CEO of SSF says his contribution was fantastic: “Ismail’s work has greatly helped our sustainability, meaning we’ll be there in the future for more young people. We’re hugely grateful.”

Ismail says he benefitted too: “I learned about Theatre Tax Relief, which was a very interesting experience. I learned how things are done in a charity organisation and what kind of impact that can have on schools up and down the country, which was amazing.”
ADVISING ELDERLY CARE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE GIVES FINANCE LAWYER FRESH PERSPECTIVES

When finance lawyer Matteo Sbraga’s nan became frail and unwell, he saw first-hand how tough life can get for elderly people: “She lived with us but if people are on their own, I don’t know how they cope,” he says. That’s one reason why he volunteered with SBT through his employer, Clifford Chance, to use his legal skills to help Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS).

HILS supports elderly and vulnerable adults to live independently in their homes by providing a meals delivery service and other assistance. They wanted legal advice on a range of matters, including tax, public procurement and contracts. Through SBT, they can now call on Matteo and benefit from the expertise of a top law firm.

Matteo helps them personally on many issues but also draws on colleagues to assist with specialist advice. The work takes some time on top of a demanding job but he says it’s refreshing to occasionally focus on things far removed from capital markets: “It’s good because you’re doing something different to the corporate work we’re doing every day. This is quite varied and you can get questions on anything.”

He would definitely encourage other business professionals to get involved: “My role feels tiny but hopefully it’ll help HILS to move forward. I don’t feel I’ve done anything ground-breaking but if you can contribute and answer questions, why not?”

He particularly enjoys interacting with HILS’ management team: “They’ve impressed me: they’re switched on, up-to-speed, very passionate and ambitious.”

HILS CEO, Sarah Wren MBE, is equally enthusiastic about Matteo: “His expertise really is making a difference and he genuinely cares about using his skills to help us. He’s a total star!”

With SBT’s help Hertfordshire Independent Living Service has more than doubled the number of elderly people and vulnerable adults it supports in two years.

HILS clients say its services make life better:

98% My life is easier
97% My family has greater peace of mind
94% I feel happier
94% It has helped me stay living at home

“YOU CAN EXPAND YOUR SKILL SET, SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENT, MEET SOME DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND HOPEFULLY DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR SOCIETY.”

Matteo Sbraga, Lawyer, Clifford Chance

92% rate their SBT volunteer experience highly

VOLUNTEER VALUES
OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PORTFOLIO

The social enterprises we support are special. They have a strong social mission, a proven track record and a robust business model, with revenues of c.£1 million or more and a high proportion of earned income. They have the ambition and potential to grow to national scale or significance. And they have the capacity and willingness to work with us and be open to change. They have been selected by SBT from reviews of over 1,000 social enterprises.

On average, in the first two years working with SBT they have doubled their number of beneficiaries: a fantastic achievement.

OTHER SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN OUR NETWORK:

Bikeworks, Brighter Future Workshop, Enabling Enterprise, Fashion Enter, Inspiring Futures Foundation, Step By Step, Timewise and Young Advisors.

TOP REASONS TO JOIN SBT

Positive, productive skills volunteering doesn’t happen by accident. Engagements need to be carefully scoped and managed for everyone involved to benefit.

SBT has the focus and experience to make skills volunteering successful for our corporate partners, their staff and the charitable organisations they support:

SCOPE QUALITY ASSIGNMENTS
Projects undertaken by SBT volunteers are carefully designed to ensure the right people with the appropriate skills deliver them and will provide what a social enterprise needs, resulting in good outcomes for all involved.

DE-RISK ENGAGEMENTS
SBT conducts detailed due diligence to ensure that the social enterprises it works with have effective governance, strong management teams and the right foundations for growth. So our corporate partners get to work with organisations that can truly benefit from their support.

OPTIMISE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
We enable business people to make a positive social contribution by using their professional skills strategically and effectively. That way we maximise the benefits to both our social enterprises and those who are helping them grow.

BUILD COLLABORATION
Our corporate partners decide together what social enterprises SBT supports. They then team up to provide each social enterprise with different elements of the help they need, developing inter-company relationships at multiple levels that benefit the businesses involved, as well as SBT.

PROMOTE INVOLVEMENT
SBT produces quality publications, videos and social media content to share stories of the difference our business volunteers make. It gives our corporate partners brand-enhancing good news stories to share with their stakeholders too.

RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE SUCCESS
Our volunteers feel valued. SBT celebrates the difference they make together at events which enable them to feel part of a bigger community of business professionals driving social impact. It also means their personal contribution is recognised by senior leaders in their company.

GET INVOLVED

We work with world-class corporate partners which share a belief in the power of business and social enterprises working together to tackle pressing problems in society. They also share a desire to offer employees high-quality skills volunteering opportunities to support their development, whilst helping leading social enterprises grow.

We have an ambitious new goal to help 3 million people and need excellent new corporate partners to help us achieve that.

Join us and be part of the collaborative SBT business community, changing lives together in such a positive way.