

Lantern Leverages Andela to Rebuild Entire Platform Under 3 Months

PRODUCT

Lantern[®]

End of life planning software



CHALLENGE

Need to move faster to meet tight deadlines



SOLUTION

Strong developers that take ownership



RESULT

Immediate impact that improves code quality

Lantern, a public benefit corporation, is a single source of guidance for navigating life before and after a death. The company offers software and a set of resources that guide family members through end-of-life planning, including the confusing maze of funeral plans, wills, last wishes, and logistics.

THE CHALLENGE

Lantern Needed to Accelerate Hiring to Meet Their Aggressive Product Roadmap

The Lantern team had a three-month deadline to rewrite its entire product. Every day they weren't hiring, they were losing time as new releases introduced bugs in their core platform with every commit and deploy.

On top of needing senior engineers to help rebuild the product from MVP to V1, they were also in dire need of developers with backend and ops experience that could improve and accelerate their testing in order to meet their product roadmap.

"There was no way we could recruit, onboard, and ramp up two senior developers in that time frame. And because I do some coding, as well as manage the time, we needed teammates that would be strong developers without a lot of hand-holding on my part."

Shae Smith
TECHNICAL LEAD, LANTERN

THE SOLUTION

With Andela, Lantern Quickly Hires Full-Time Senior Developers

Senior developers that are full-time and embedded. With a recommendation to Andela from a colleague, Technical Lead, Shae Smith, evaluated Andela for quick access to high-performing engineers. After looking into alternative staffing models that were short-term or project-based, Shae decided to partner with Andela because engineers were embedded on her team full-time and long-term.

Senior developers who can hit the ground running on day one. Lantern brought on two backend Andela developers that started immediately to meet product testing needs.

Senior developers who provide diverse perspectives and experiences. The end of life is a universal experience, and the Lantern team found it both significant and valuable to have perspectives outside the U.S.

“Other software outsourcing companies seemed more project-based--you give them a project and they give back. You kind of throw the project over a wall. With Andela, the engineers are part of our team, are really excited to be working with us, and are invested in our success. That’s a huge plus for us.”

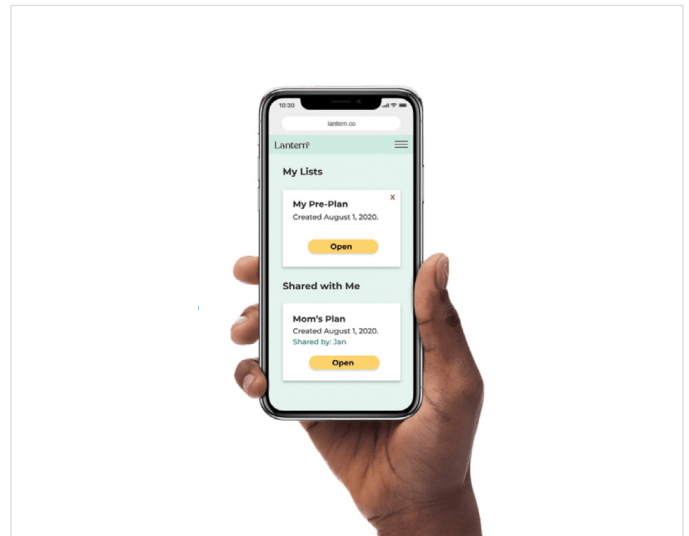
Shae Smith

TECHNICAL LEAD, LANTERN

THE RESULTS

Andela Enables Lantern to Scale Product Development and Improve Code Quality

Immediately, Andela engineers made an impact on meeting Lantern’s three-month deadline. As soon as they joined, they wrote test code against Lantern’s core platform, which helped the Lantern team move faster by minimizing the bugs from deploy and commits that were originally slowing them down.



Over time, the Andela engineers have made important long-term contributions to product quality. Some examples include:

- **They helped make the product more performant.** “We had a critical piece of an application that was taking 39 seconds to load -- way too long -- and we weren’t sure why. One of our Andela engineers jumped in, did the investigation, and solved the problem. Load time went down to one second.”
- **They led the development of a new feature.** Andela developers have a variety of experience from different software companies. This proved valuable when the Lantern team was kicking off a new project to develop a paywall -- an Andela developer who had previously developed a paywall for another business was able to seamlessly lead that project.

“Andela did a great job of codifying our requirements and matching us with very strong developers that work well with us. The depth of experience they have brought to our team has been invaluable.” - *Shae Smith, Technical Lead at Lantern*