



CLIENT STORY

Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley

Host*Net Delivers FIMS to Foundations of Any Size.

Background

The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley (CFCV) was founded in 1998 as a philanthropic resource for the people and charitable organizations of Columbus, Georgia and the surrounding areas. Although they are still a new foundation, they already are administering over 70 donor funds. In 2003, they received over \$6.5 million in gifts and pledges and distributed more than \$2.7 million in 383 grants.

Betsy Covington is the foundation's second Executive Director. When she arrived in February 2001, the foundation was using a variety of Excel spreadsheets to track asset allocations and grant payments. Their donor information wasn't even being kept in a database. Nothing was integrated. One of the first things she was told by a longtime colleague in the community foundation field was, "If you do nothing else in the next three months, get FIMS [The Foundation Information Management System from MicroEdge]."

Covington and her Operations Coordinator are currently a two-person office. They didn't even have a file server. limited resources and limited budget Covington was concerned that the benefits of FIMS would be out of the organization's reach.

Host*Net provides the flexibility and functionality they need

MicroEdge Host*Net allowed CFCV to acquire the functionality and flexibility of FIMS at a price they could afford. The foundation still doesn't have a file server, but they can access all the FIMS

features through their Internet connection. MicroEdge serves as the foundation's ASP (Application Server Provider), managing the software, all software upgrades, virus protection and backups.

Covington especially appreciates how Host*Net allows for a flexible work environment. She works full-time, even though she leaves the office everyday at 3pm, because it's easy to log into Host*Net and access FIMS from her laptop at home. She can look up information, run reports or even enter data from any computer with Internet access.

Covington says her biggest concern about the Host*Net service was data security. However, she learned from a local company that specializes in credit card transaction security that MicroEdge's data security was strong. "They told me it is state-of-the-art."

Training and Support staff gets them up to speed quickly

Covington has attended software training classes in the past that couldn't be customized to fit her organization's requirements. With Host*Net delivering FIMS, she and her colleague could schedule a training session and decide on the topics most important to them at the time. They used a common Internet presentation service for their training sessions, so the trainer and the foundation staff were looking at the exact same information all the time. The trainer then gave them assignments (such as entering certain types of data) and they were able to review their completed assignments in their database at the start of the next session.

CFCV implemented FIMS using Host*Net in November 2001 and as they approach their second anniversary Covington says, "It's been so easy! All praise to FIMS!"

"If you do nothing else in the next three months, get FIMS [The Foundation Information Management System from MicroEdge]."

-Betsy Covington, Executive Director



(continued)
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Flexible reporting lets them work with their board to create templates

Because CFCV is still a relatively new foundation, Covington worked with her Board of Directors to develop a set of reports that gives them the information they need in a presentation format they like. And she loves that she can extract data from the database and merge it directly into grant letters and donor thank-you letters.

"It's been so easy! All praise to FIMS!"

Host*Net advantages

- ◆ Initial cost is lower than purchasing all the hardware and software
- ◆ Accessible from any computer with an Internet connection
- ◆ MicroEdge responsible for security and accessibility
- ◆ Daily backups handled as part of the service

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