



FIMS 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. With an asset base of \$88 million, they administer over 170 funds. Their annual gifts total \$21.1 million and annual grants total \$8.6 million in 1,487 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]."

At the time, Covington and her Operations Coordinator were a small operation as just a two-person office. They didn't even have a file server. Because of their 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

After learning more about FIMS Host*Net and the benefits it could bring to the organization, CFCV decided to dive in. This step was the turning point in allowing 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 hosts everything, manages the software, all software upgrades, virus protection and backups, making countless hours spent on administration work a thing of the past.

Covington especially appreciates how FIMS Host*Net allows for a flexible work environment. She and her staff are able to work from anywhere, accessing FIMS from their laptops and/ or home computers. They can look up information, run reports or even enter data from any computer with Internet access.

“If you do nothing else in the next three months, get FIMS.”

— Betsy Covington
Executive Director

Data security concerns eased

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."

CFCV implemented FIMS using Host*Net in November 2001. "It's been so easy! All praise to FIMS!"





Report exactly what the board wants

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.

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

