

**2021 Business of the Year - Questionnaire Responses**

Nomination emails sent 1/20/21

	<u>Dedicated Networks Inc</u>	<u>Do All Printing</u>	<u>Dynamic Group Inc</u>	<u>PACT Charter School</u>	<u>B&amp;F Fastener Supply</u>	<u>Armstrong Kennels</u>
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<i>Survey taken (year)</i>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
1. When did you become a physically established business in Ramsey?	April 2012	May 2012	1999	2004	1999	1926
2. What is your estimated number of employees/FTE?	120	8	95	90	50 (Ramsey) / 200 (Company)	10
3. How does your business positively affect the community, besides job creation (i.e. community involvement, donations, sponsorships, memberships, etc.)?	<p><i>Dedicated Networks helps build a sense of community in Ramsey, starting within our workplace. Our founders started the company with an unwavering commitment to the betterment of our team members through personal development and self-improvement. The company has grown by helping our team members be their best selves, as they learn skills and contribute toward developing the business. We partner with local colleges through MJSP grants to train our workforce and increase their skills, create internship opportunities for up-and-coming talent, as well as have hosted internal book clubs in our library space. We continue that commitment of continuous learning and growth to this day.</i></p> <p><i>With the company's growth over the past decade there has been an increasing focus on giving back to the community. We enjoy giving back to the community in many ways. In 2020 we celebrated the 15th year anniversary of the company's founding. We engaged local vendors to help celebrate our 15-year anniversary, set up as a small, socially distanced, event held in our parking lot.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our culture of employee appreciation, we regularly arrange local</i></p>	<p><i>Wow, I am being humbled to realize as for the company there is little community involvement. We do sponsor some of the Anoka athletic teams. Personally, Torrey resigned his position as a planning commissioner to start an organization to encourage people not to give up on their marriage which is based out of Hope Fellowship in Ramsey.</i></p>	<p><i>Our values of compassion, integrity, gratitude, respect, and determination are integral to the work we do to be an effective partner and solution provider to our customers.</i></p>	<p><i>PACT is a public charter school authorized by Bethel University. PACT enrolls approximately 660 students in K-12. While most students reside in the cities of Ramsey and Anoka, PACT has many students who come from a wide geographic area spanning four counties. PACT offers more than 30 extracurricular activities and hosts sporting events with schools throughout the metro. These factors bring families into Ramsey from surrounding areas, placing them in situations to interact with local businesses.</i></p> <p><i>PACT stands for Pursuing Academics and Character Together. PACT staff and parents work together to model positive character development through intentionally teaching qualities such as respect, citizenship, gratitude, compassion, integrity, cooperation, self-control, responsibility, and perseverance. Many of our student organizations positively impact the community through service projects. These include, picking up trash in the COR, providing treats and writing cards to thank law enforcement and first responders, and volunteering at organizations like Feed My Starving Children. Additionally, PACT holds a Veterans Day Ceremony each November to show appreciation to those who serve our country.</i></p> <p><i>PACT is committed to preparing students for college and lifelong learning, which in turn provides the community with qualified employees. A measure of PACT's academic success is demonstrated by student performance on the ACT test. For the past five years, PACT students have consistently scored above the state average on the ACT test. Most years over 50% of our Junior and Senior students take college credit, and around 10% graduate with their high school diploma and Associate of Arts degree.</i></p>	<p><i>At B&amp;F we love community involvement! We have incredible employees that love to help make a difference. Our company has a very deep respect for all members of our military and law enforcement agencies. In an effort to demonstrate our respect and support we try to partner with the Ramsey PD as often as possible to support them. They have a great team and we have gotten to know a lot of the officers there. We often invite them to attend our employee grill-outs or have even had Captain Bluml be our Chili cookoff judge! In addition, we have participated in the Torch Run with the Ramsey City PD for 3 years now and that is enjoyed by everybody. Toys for Joy and the Christmas Committee is another way we have partner with the. We have had the privilege to tag along when they deliver gifts to families in need in the Ramsey community. Our favorite event would probably be the Tip-a-Cop event to help raise money for the Special Olympics. Anything that involves food, and we are in! Unfortunately, due to the circumstances this year the Tip-a-Cop event will not be able to happen. In effort to still support the cause we are putting together a Polar Plunge team to continue to raise awareness and money for the Special Olympics! We also partner with the American Red Cross to host bi-annual blood drives at our Corporate office in Ramsey. So far, we have collected 370 units of blood, which equals up to 1,110 lives saved. Besides the events listed above, we participate in additional community service outside of our Ramsey footprint as we do have several locations throughout the Upper Midwest. Things such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Adopt a Highway</li> <li>- Helping at local food shelves</li> <li>- Helping at local food Shelves</li> <li>- Feed My Starving Children</li> <li>- Variety of different military appreciation cookouts</li> <li>- variety of different First Responder appreciation cookouts</li> </ul>	<p><i>We do a lot of donations when we are asked. We also have a dog park that is open for community members during our business hours.</i></p>

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<p>4. What is unique about your business, what is noteworthy or what makes your business different from your competitors (i.e. innovative product/building, significant job retention/creation, overcoming a significant obstacle, etc.)?</p>	<p><i>As an extension of our community mindedness, our business plays a unique, and key role in the contributing to responsible environmental stewardship. With much concern today over electronic waste, our business contributes positively toward the circular economy by extending the life of high value IT assets. In 2020, we recycled almost 475,000 pounds of waste and refurbished and resold 100,723 main units of network gear.</i></p> <p><i>The Dedicated Difference is what sets us apart from our competitors. Our commitment to our team members translates to great service to our customers around the world. Inc 5000 and Minneapolis/St Paul Business Journal's Fast 50 identified Dedicated Networks multiple years as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in Minnesota.</i></p> <p><i>Dedicated is known as a preferred and trusted supplier of high value networking equipment. We carry over 200,000 products in inventory and 98% of our orders ship the same day. Our customers appreciate the level of expertise and service that the company provides and regularly recognizes our service as the best in the industry.</i></p>	<p><i>I am proud to say what makes Do All Printing unique are ethics and working hard for the customer. I think of the hours staying late or coming in early to get a job done, owning up for mistakes without excuses, and passing on savings to customers when a job came in lower than estimated. Other aspects are the wide product line, great discounts for organizations whose purpose is to spread the Gospel and we have an awesome food truck in our parking lot drawing in many from other areas.</i></p>	<p><i>Dynamic Group is a privately owned contract manufacturer specializing in providing complex injection molded plastic components and assemblies and high precision molds for plastic and powder injection molding. We primarily serve the medical, electronics, technology, and firearms industries. We provide our customers a competitive edge in bringing products to market through effective collaboration with experienced technical professionals and utilization of state-of-the-art design and manufacturing technologies.</i></p>	<p><i>Charter schools are choice schools, which is an opportunity for parents to access the best K-12 education options for their children. PACT's mission is to partner as parents, students, and staff to develop students of character and academic excellence. Every child deserves a challenging and motivating education and that is what we provide -- empowered parents who choose the educational environment best for their kids.</i></p> <p><i>As a community of character-builders, we are focused on personal growth and committed to the development of the whole person. We incorporate these leadership traits every day by displaying respect, citizenship, gratitude, compassion, integrity, cooperation, self-control, responsibility, and perseverance.</i></p>	<p><i>One of the first things that comes to mind is the fact that we recently won Family Business of the Year! This was presented by Twin City Business and is an award that we hold very high. Being a family-owned business in our industry is certainly one of the unique things that we bring to our market. This truly allows us to put our customers first. It also provides a great environment for our employee's and they understand that we are all just one big BF family! Our entire team is certainly what makes our business so successful. We have extremely loyal and dedicated employees, with extremely low turnover rates. Our Management team is just one example of that. Both our Executive Management and our Middle Management teams here in Ramsey have all been promoted from within, except for 2. They truly understand all aspects of the company and there is not a job they are not willing to do. We also have several value-added services that really help set us apart from our competition. We have our custom packaging division in house. This provides us the ability to make custom hardware kits with 100 percent quality control. It really helps eliminate the time-consuming processes for our customers, ultimately saving them time and money! Our custom machining division is also under the same roof. This division allows us to provide per print production parts, or the opportunity to modify standard fasteners. The ability to control both the quality and the lead time really provides a huge value to our customer base.</i></p>	<p><i>We have been here since Ramsey was a township. We are the biggest dog and cat boarding facility in the state of Minnesota. We have people come from all over the state to board their pets with us. Most of our employees have been working for us for 15 plus years. We also put on the Game Fair that bring people in from all over the U.S.A.</i></p>
<p>5. Additional information</p>	<p><i>Dedicated Networks is proud of our history, our present and our future. The City of Ramsey has been a great place for our company to take root and grow. When we moved to Ramsey in 2012, we employed 16 team members. At the end of 2020, we employed 115 team members, with additional growth expected. We continue to develop and balance personal and professional development in all that we do – for our people, our customers and our community. And a shameless plug – we are hiring!</i></p> <p><i>We look forward to continued growth in the years ahead and are thankful for our opportunity to be a strong member of the Ramsey business community.</i></p>	<p><i>Do All held off on building a 2 million dollar building at the current location anticipating the rework of HWY 10 going to take the property and then costing tax payers over 2 million dollars</i></p>	<p><i>Dynamic Group is ISO 13485 certified, as well as FDA registered as a contract manufacturer of medical devices</i></p>	<p><i>We pride ourselves as the only middle and high school in the city of Ramsey and appreciate our local families who call PACT home. We value our partnership with our local government, police, and firefighters; and are proud members of The COR. There is an adage that says, "It takes a village," but we say "it takes a community." Thank you, City of Ramsey, for partnering with us.</i></p>		