



2022 Business of the Year Nominees - Questionnaire Responses

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1/4/2022, reminder 2/10; 2/23 VM for Paul

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1/4/2022, reminder 2/10

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1/4/2022, reminder 2/10

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5-Jan

Survey Sent
Survey taken (year)

4-Jan

1/4/2022, reminder 2/10

2022

2022

2022

2022

2022

2022

Survey taken (year)	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
1. When did you become a physically established business in Ramsey?	2004	1979	2012	1999	2004	1999
2. What is your estimated number of employees/FTE?	50 (Ramsey) / 160 (Company)	10FT, 15PT; Companywide 69	135	99	90	50
3. How does your business positively affect the community, besides job creation (i.e. community involvement, donations, sponsorships, memberships, etc.)?	Fire department, police department whoever asks that is local we donate.	We have a customer base that that includes the surrounding states, so they tend to make a day out of coming to the area and going to local restaurants, shops, and even staying in the hotel across the street. We also support local fund raisers with donations, including local church festivals/auctions, local radio stations, and local charities.	Dedicated Networks believes greater community-building begins in our workplace. Through our network of dedicated employees, we work to improve ourselves, improve our community and beyond. Our family-owned business was founded on principles of commitment to connection; both fiber optic and human. We foster a growth mindset through an internal program we call Dedicated to Drive Continuous Improvement. Through this initiative over 60 employees have shared their ideas, and more than 136 of those have been implemented to improve work at Dedicated Networks in 2021. We celebrate our employees' contributions to a safe working environment. When we demonstrate our value of safety, it demonstrates value for one another, for our business, our customers and our community. Our Caught Doing Something Right (CDSR) program highlights our safety practices and empowers our employees to lead the way in safety on a daily basis. Over 250 CDSR cards were awarded to our employees in 2021. When we hold ourselves to excellence in safety at work, it becomes an inherent part of who we are and how we operate. We are committed to continuous learning and growth. We don't want to miss a growth opportunity across our business or within an individual. All of our employees have had the opportunity to participate in professional development and other job-related training. In 2021, our Lean training initiative empowered employees to see our workplace through a new perspective. As valued personnel in their areas of expertise, they were challenged to streamline our workflows, eliminate unnecessary waste, and work smarter not harder. We believe this strategy emboldens our workers to question processes, define problems and work together toward better solutions. In our desire to attract and retain great personnel, we partner with local colleges through MJSP grants to train our workforce, increase their skills, and create internship opportunities for up-and-coming talent. Ramsey is our home—it is the city that built us and the foundation of Dedicated Networks. We care deeply about our community, and our outpouring of appreciation is demonstrated through our continued effort to provide services that give back to Ramsey and build it up year after year. In 2021 we were delighted to practice our appreciation through the following: -It was an honor to be a sponsor of Ramsey Days. -We partnered with the Anoka County Christmas Committee, and we became a donation site that contributed more than 125 toys to local families through Toys for Joy. -We raised almost \$2000 when 20 employees participated in Movember. The money went toward lifesaving research and programs for causes like men's mental health and suicide awareness and prevention. -We offered connection to groups that felt disconnected because of the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining our value for safety. Holiday cards written by our employees and wrapped chocolates were sent to two local senior centers, Suite Living Memory Care & Assisted Living and River Oaks of Anoka.	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.	PACT Charter School is a responsive, community-based K-12 public school built on a committed partnership between teachers, parents, and students. Together we strive to achieve strong moral character and excellence in education while helping students develop a strong sense of self-worth and respect for others and the community around them. In addition, we encourage each student to recognize their ability to contribute something unique to our community. Our students are involved in Boy/Girl Scouts, local churches, and charities, and are part of the workforce in and around the Ramsey area. Families come to our location from a 12-mile radius, which contributes to Ramsey's awareness and economy. Our school has students from cities like Brooklyn Park, Dayton, Coon Rapids, Blaine, Andover, Elk River, and Zimmerman -- and everything in between! PACT is authorized by Bethel University and is a member of the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce and partners with Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association and Adrenaline Sports Center.	At B&F we love the community involvement aspect! We have incredible employees that love to help make a difference, but understand that it takes a team to do that. One of our primary focuses has been with the Ramsey City Police Department. They have an incredible team and we have gotten to know a lot of the officers there. We often invite them to grill-outs we have for our employees during lunch or even have had Captain Bluml be our Chili cookoff judge! In addition, we have also participated in the Torch Run with the Ramsey City PD for 4 years now and it is enjoyed by everybody. Christmas Committee is another team effort with Officer Stolp. We have had the privilege to tag along with him and deliver gifts to families in need in the Ramsey Community. Don't let us fool you though, our favorite event would probably be the Tip-a-Cop event to help raise money for the Special Olympics. Anything that has to do with food and we are in. Unfortunately, due to the current state of the world we are unsure if Tip-a-Cop will be back on, so to make sure we continue to raise awareness, we are also putting a team together for the Polar Plunge! We also host 2 blood drives every year in our facility here in Ramsey. One during the Holidays and the other one in August. We have collected 422 units of blood, which can equal up to 1,226 lives saved! Besides these things above we do other additional community services outside of our Ramsey footprint as we do have locations throughout the Upper Midwest. Things such as: -Adopt a Highway - Helping at local Food Banks - Helping at local Food Shelves - Feed My Starving Children - Variety of different Military appreciation cookouts - Variety of different First Responder cookouts -Helping Hands for Freedom
3. Cont			-We honored U.S. military service members during the month of August when Dedicated Networks participated in the Tee It Up for the Troops golf event which benefits those who have been wounded in the defense of our freedom. Being a part of this event gave us the opportunity to show our gratitude and appreciation for the sacrifices made by these brave men and women. The event took place at The Royal Golf Club in Lake Elmo and over 130 people were in attendance. -We held two blood drives (February and September 2021) and collected over 65 units of blood to save and sustain almost 200 lives in our community. -We provide career opportunities and seek out local talent through career fairs including CareerForce (workforce center) in Anoka County. -In 2021 we laid the groundwork for a formal internship program to bring in eight interns throughout the organization in the summer of 2022 -Our employees are locals, too. Dedicated Networks hosted a family picnic on Sunday, September 19th at Bunker Hills Regional Park. The weather was beautiful, the food was delicious, and the camaraderie was warm and friendly. The kids enjoyed face painting, balloon artists, kites, bubbles and an obstacle course. The adults enjoyed			

Business	<u>Global Glove</u>	<u>Plants & Things USA</u>	<u>Dedicated Networks Inc</u>	<u>Dynamic Group Inc</u>	<u>PACT Charter School</u>	<u>B&F Fastener Supply</u>
<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>We provide PPE which was critical during COVID. We continue to add employees and square footage in Ramsey. Bought the Dahlheimer building and added on to the corporate office and warehouse on Radium Street.</p>	<p>Plants and Things is a unique 12 acre family run business. We proudly carry high quality outdoor furniture, sheds, gazebos, pergolas, and pavilions that are all made here in America. Many of our full time employees have worked here over 20 years, and many of our part time high schoolers continue to work here throughout their college years. We have overcome many obstacles over the years including the recession in 2008, and most recently the worldwide pandemic by continuing to evolve and expand our merchandise for the changing needs of the consumer.</p>	<p>Dedicated Networks is building a better future. We refurbish used equipment and recycle what we can't reuse. We supply our customers with the technology they need now and for years to come. We do all of this for the sake of a future that will undoubtedly require our services and require the kind of environmental stewardship that we are already employing. In 2021, we extended the life of more than 300,000 pieces of high value internet enabling equipment and responsibly recycled 320 tons of waste. We are proud of the way we do business. We call it The Dedicated Difference, and it's a mentality that permeates our organization and reaches every one of our clients. We provide an exceptional experience; it doesn't matter whether you're a customer or a team member—it's part of the package. We are known, we are trusted, and we deliver. We carry over 200,000 products in inventory and 98% of our orders ship the same day. Our sales and engineering teams have an extremely high level of expertise that our customers are grateful for. Additionally, Dedicated Networks has been identified multiple times by both Inc. 5000 and the Minneapolis/St Paul Business Journal's Fast 50 as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in Minnesota. We live in an era where networking equipment is essential for business and communication. Simultaneously, supply chain issues and other challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic have added opportunities for rapid growth as well as complexities that challenged our business model. The solution to these complexities lay in the hands of additional employees. We needed to grow, it had to be done immediately, and we were out of physical space. In June of 2021, we added a 2nd shift to meet the increased demands of our clients. We hired more employees, added more operating hours and we now expect to double our productivity. We are proud to have risen to the challenge without increasing our physical footprint.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Charter schools are choice schools, which allow parents to access their child's best K-12 education options. 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. As a community of character-builders, PACT is focused on personal growth and committed to developing the whole person. We incorporate these leadership traits every day by displaying respect, citizenship, gratitude, compassion, integrity, cooperation, self-control, responsibility, and perseverance.</p>	<p>One of the first things that come to mind is the fact that we are a family-owned business. 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 employees and they understand that we are all just one big BF family! Our entire team certainly makes our business the success it is. We have extremely loyal and dedicated employees, with an extremely low turnover rate; our management team especially. One of the impressive things about both our Executive Management and our Middle Management is that they all have all been promoted from within, with the exception of two positions. They truly understand all aspects of the company and there isn't a job they aren't willing to do.</p> <p>In addition to our incredible team, we certainly have some great value-added services that really sets us apart from our competitors. We have our custom packaging division right here in Ramsey. This provides us the ability to make custom hardware kits with 100 percent quality control. It really helps eliminate the</p>
<p>5. Additional information</p>	<p>City of Ramsey has been very proactive and has been easy to work together. Even though we had to spend 300K to upgrade the sprinkler system at the Dahlheimer old beer warehouse!!! We have invested significant capital in packaging and print equipment.</p>	<p>We are truly blessed to have started our business 42 years ago here in Ramsey. We started as a fruit and vegetable stand all those years ago and have evolved into a 12 acre outdoor destination of furniture, structures, and garden decor. We continue to carry plants in the spring. The community support of our store has contributed to our success over the years and allowed us the opportunity to expand our business to include furniture stores in Coon Rapids, and Elk River along with a distribution center in Elk River.</p>	<p>The community of Ramsey has given so much to us. We are grateful and honored for the chance to give in return. Good businesses work for themselves, great businesses work for everyone. Dedicated Networks is proud to be connected to a community with so many great businesses.</p>	<p>Dynamic Group is ISO 13485 certified, as well as FDA registered as a contract manufacturer of medical devices.</p>	<p>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. We are excited about our plans for a new middle and high school building near Central Park in 2023. With that expansion, we plan to grow our enrollment from 670 students to approximately 1,270 by 2026. We plan to start construction this spring, and the application process will begin in May of 2022. It would be an honor and a great benefit for us to earn this award in the year that we begin our push for enrollment growth</p>	<p>Throughout the years we have also received several awards and recognition: 2021- NextGens to watch list 2020- Minnesota Family Business of the Year 2017- Featured in Industrial Supply Magazine 2016- Upsize Business Builder of the Year</p>