



Dr. Networking Staff, Left to Right: Angela LaFazio, Customer Service Specialist; Bruce McAlevy, Mac Expert; Robert Connolly, Senior Technician; Clif Schieck, Project Manager and Company President; Norman M Dean, virus Removal Specialist; Victoria Simone Stewart, Operations Manager and Marketing Director. Photo by Mikota Photography

## Computer Services and Nonprofit Organizations Forge Relationships

How important is it for a local business to support Rogue Valley nonprofit organizations? Dr. Networking, a Computer Services Company located in Ashland, feels that it is extremely important.

As part of its company plan, Dr. Networking focuses on a different segment of the community each year. Company President Clif Schieck decided that developing a service and sales program for nonprofit organizations (501c3) would be the focus in 2009. So Dr. Networking's core team (Schieck, Victoria Simone Stewart, Operations Manager and Robert Connolly, Senior Technician) developed a program to guide community benefit organizations through the maze of: computer equipment purchases and upgrades, software avail-

ability, networking, remote log in from off site locations, and general consultation.

Schieck chose nonprofit organizations because he felt that it was time to give back to all of the local organizations that continually provide for those in the Rogue Valley.

Each nonprofit organization has the need to gain computer and networking equipment at a reduced price through a trusted source that can provide excellent maintenance service for years down the road. Dr. Networking offers organizational audits on location as well as consultative services at little or no cost. The "discovery" audits help the organization understand what is needed to run a nonprofit business on a day-to-day basis.

Consultant services work to change a pattern of reactive maintenance into proactive decision-making. This also includes aligning the organization with service specialists such as Tech Soup, which offers free software to non profits.

An additional hurdle to be negotiated is the task of obtaining pre-approval from the nonprofit's Board of Directors. Communication is paramount to gaining the necessary funding for equipment and services. A large part of this is being able to make the Dr. Networking proposal clear by translating computer speak and technical jargon into phrasing clearly understood by each person reading it, regardless of his or her level of computer experience.

One common thread that differentiates these organizations from their for-profit counterparts is that most of the nonprofits profiled were using pieced together, donated or used equipment. Many times, the organizations did not have licensed software or current versions of the programs necessary to run their businesses. The most surprising, and disturbing, discovery made during this evaluation process was the realization that the data in this equipment and shared between employees was hyper-sensitive but not secured. One organization evaluated by Dr. Networking, in fact, had its sensitive data accessible to anyone in the building using the network. This association had not given a thought to the security of the information.

On other fronts, Dr. Networking organized a laptop donation program for Science Works, erased the hard drives of donated laptops, set up the laptops with robot programming software and maintained them. This relationship developed into Dr. Networking servicing all of Science Works' existing equipment, including set-

ting up a Blackberry, and locating some used equipment in good working condition for Science Works to purchase. Also, Dr. Networking has provided Science Works with help for fund raisers. Dr. Networking was the top sponsor for the Brews N Boogie fund raiser in October where the entire Dr. Networking crew volunteered at the 5 hour event. Dr. Networking hosted a Chamber of Commerce Mixer at ScienceWorks in September, turning the large museum into an evening party space for business-to-business networking.

Dr. Networking has assisted the Ashland Rotary Club with several projects that have a direct impact on third world countries. Schieck is currently working out the technical components for the World Community Service organization and has been instrumental in helping local Rotary organizations with the LN-4 project. This is the project that provides mechanical hands to individuals in third world countries whom have had their hands amputated. Their website is LN-4.org. Tim Bewley of the Ashland Rotary Club will answer any questions emailed to him.

In addition to Science Works and the Ashland Rotary Club, Dr. Networking has improved computer technology for these local non-profit organizations: The Center for Spiritual Living in Medford, Children's Advocacy Center in Medford, Saint Vincent DePaul in Medford and Southern Oregon Child Treatment Centers in Ashland, Medford, Gold Hill and Central Point.

*For more information visit Dr. Networking at 485 E. Main Sr. , Suite 6, Ashland, call (541) 488-8765 or visit their website at [www.drnetworking.net](http://www.drnetworking.net).*

