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CASE STUDY

EDWARD LOWE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1985, the Edward Lowe Foundation (formerly Edward Lowe Industries, the inventors of the Kitty Litter) is best known for their Entrepreneurship Programs and Land Stewardship.

Overview



For years, Edward Lowe Financial (ELF) had been looking to get rid of their on-premise accounting system. They were running (and loving) Microsoft Dynamics GP, but several aspects were becoming unsustainable. As a small nonprofit, server hardware costs were adding up and finding technical resources to maintain and secure their system was becoming more difficult and expensive. ELF was also a Mac family, which meant that they were utilizing third-party software parallels to access Dynamics GP. They had known for years that upgrading to the cloud was necessary, but for years, it seemed too cost-prohibitive. They finally took the leap in October of 2019.

The Benefits

Edward Lowe Foundation moved on to a multi-tenant cloud-based platform smoothly. By collaborating with Crestwood, the team at ELF got a secure, reliable, and comprehensive cloud solution to fit their needs.

- Free 24/7 protection and monitoring
- In the event of an attack, they'll be back up and running within minutes
- Support at their fingertips - no more wasting hours with support calls
- Anticipation of their business needs: year-end audits, resource spikes, etc.
- Competitive pricing models for any size – so they're poised for growth





“All is well with GP and I am over the moon that we were able to get that transition done when we did.” Mat James, Edward Lowe Foundation

The Solution

Edward Lowe Foundation enlisted the help of Crestwood Associates to make the switch to a multi-tenant cloud-based platform. Overall, it was a smooth and cost-effective move. Crestwood Associates was able to drastically cut the cost of hosting by utilizing a secure shared server and eliminating the third-party parallels for ELF. There was a slight hiccup with payroll and check printing, but we all worked together to get their processes running smoothly.

Potential Disaster – No Problem

Months later, the Covid-19 pandemic hit. States were locked down, businesses were shuttered. Workforces were asked to either make the switch to remote work or temporarily suspend operations. While that may sound scary, the ELF was ready for this. They had no way of knowing a global pandemic would arise back when they moved to the cloud, but the investment that they made in their company’s system paid off immediately. While some businesses were left scrambling at the onset of a nationwide shutdown, ELF was running smoothly.

“All is well with GP and I am over the moon that we were able to get that transition done when we did,” said one satisfied employee at ELF. Another raved: “Brandon Richards [of Crestwood] was so smart and responsive, and he did a great job of taking care of us through this.”

This all goes to show that good disaster preparedness can make all the difference to a company because you never know when a crisis might arise. In this case, preparedness looks like: a good, comprehensive ERP solution; a robust cloud hosting service; and an experienced partner to work through any mishaps. We at Crestwood Associates are proud to provide all three.

About Crestwood

Crestwood Associates is more than ERP. We bring current technologies - such as modern ERP systems like Acumatica and Microsoft Dynamics, along with cloud and business services - all while “Doing the Right Thing” by our clients. Living by this motto helps us to lead the way to change the widespread failure of ERP implementations over the past 30 years. With our modern methodology, over 20 years of experience, and expert, certified staff of business consultants, we see this as a chance to pave the way to aspire to achieve a 100% client success rate. How? Crestwood is committed to being beholden to our clients, not the software vendors and, in a larger sense, we want the people who work with us to enjoy technology and enable them to enhance their own lives.

