CONTINUITY CENTERS

Case Study:

Association For Children With Learning Disabilities (ACLD)

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ACLD, founded in 1957, is a leading not-for-profit agency on Long Island that proudly supports the needs of individuals with autism, learning, and developmental disabilities and their families. The ACLD mission is to provide opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to pursue enviable lives, to increase their independence and to improve their quality of life. For more information about ACLD visit their website.

IMPACT: Helps over 3000 children and adults with disabilities

SITES: Over 80

EMPLOYEES: Over 1300

Situation

The Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (ACLD) provides services to over 3000 children and adults with autism, learning, and developmental disabilities in the Nassau County and western Suffolk County region of Long Island, New York. These services allow individuals with challenges to pursue enviable lives, promote their independence, and foster supportive relationships within the community.

Providing these services requires an intricate web of behind-the-scenes IT support and the curation and securing of vast amounts of data. If data is lost, crucial services – and the lives they support – can be severely disrupted.

Solution

Partnering with Continuity Centers has allowed ACLD to operate, tap and preserve its vast reservoir of data seamlessly and efficiently. And if there's a tech glitch that disrupts the flow of data, Continuity Centers is there with on-site and remote expertise to solve the problem and treat it as their own.

Data has become integrated into the administrative fabric of ACLD and the protection of this data is paramount. Continuity Centers provides ongoing security audits and ensures that all data is securely backed up offsite. Gone are the days when ACLD staff has to go to a dimly-lit basement and sort through tapes for hours to retrieve backup data. Having the information at one's fingertips is mission-critical to keeping the services seamless for ACLD clients.
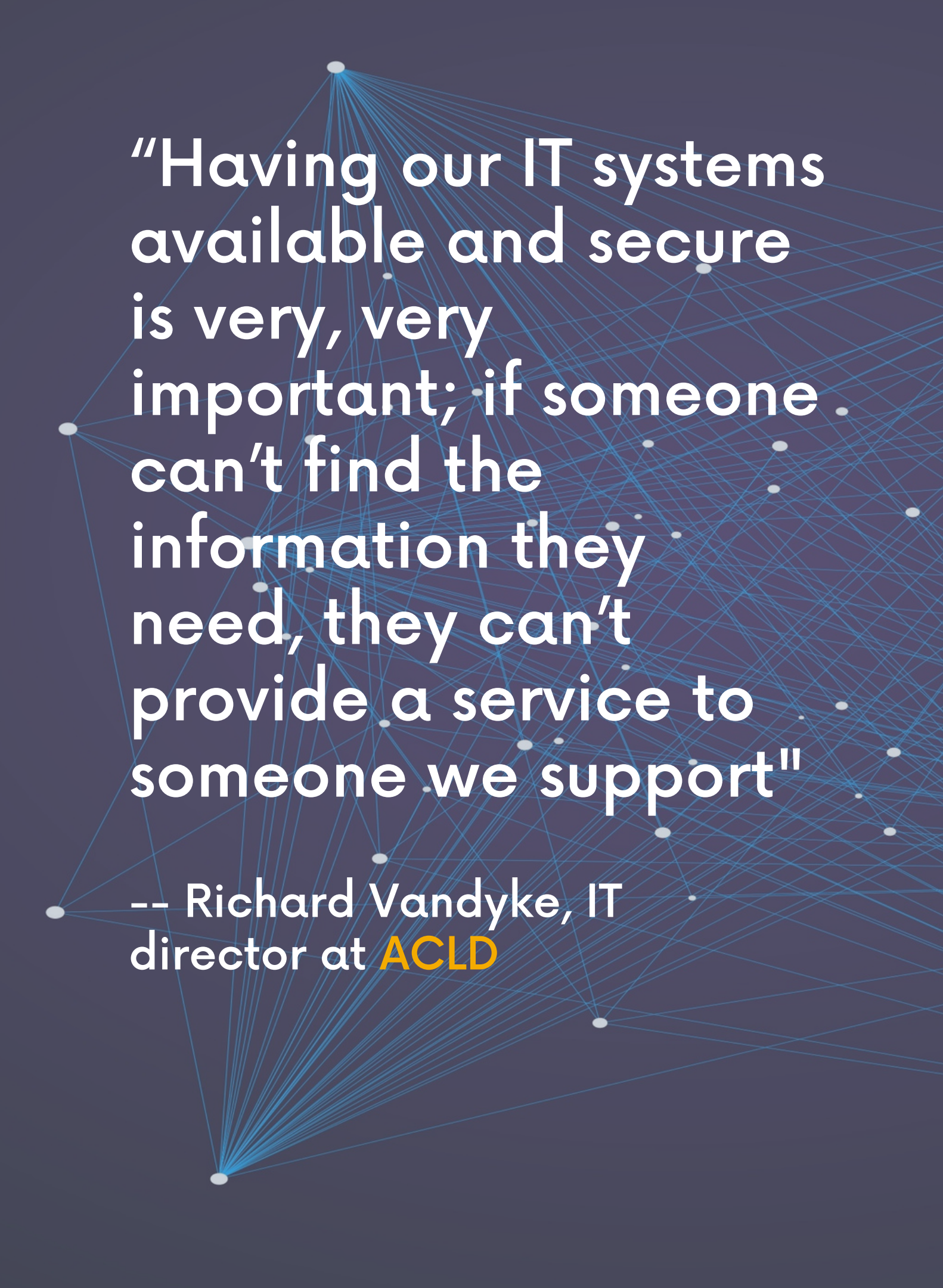
Result

Technology Turns Disabilities Into Abilities

ACLD is now five years into its relationship with Continuity Centers and during that time has been transformed from an organization with data stored on clunky tapes to seamless digital backups and secure storage. If a campus had experienced a fire or flood, valuable data would have been damaged or lost. And if a hacker had struck, ACLD would have been stuck rebuilding data from scratch using 20-year-old technology.

This extended partnership has helped cement his view as a firm believer in the power of partnerships.

"We did not have a disaster recovery solution, so we sought out Continuity Centers, and it has been a great relationship for over five years"

-- Richard Vandyke, IT director at ACLD

"Having our IT systems available and secure is very, very important; if someone can't find the information they need, they can't provide a service to someone we support"
-- Richard Vandyke, IT director at ACLD

Mission-Critical For ACLD

ACLD nurtures the growth and development of challenged children from age 3 to 21 and continues to be a compassionate hand into adulthood. For example, ACLD is a local leader in providing employee placement, over 500 employees at 100 different companies in over a decade, providing skills to those with disabilities, and providing an economic boost to employers who need the work.

"Having our IT systems available and secure is very, very important; if someone can't find the information they need, they can't provide a service to someone we support," Vandyke says.

With over 1,300 employees, ACLD needs to have scalable IT solutions that allow for exchanges of information and reliable backup. To that end, ACLD uses a cloud-based platform to help manage the varied locations through the agency's ecosystem. Such locations include administrative buildings, schools, day programs, day-hab sites, and 47 private homes, each with a business office.

VanDyke credits the IT staff at ACLD for building an efficient network that serves the organization well during "normal" times and turned out to be very resilient during the COVID19 pandemic.

While many companies had to deal with suddenly having their staff dispersed because of COVID19, ACLD was already using many tools that allowed the staff to work remotely. Meanwhile, Continuity Centers behind-the-scenes support, provided peace of mind during the pandemic with its suite of high-speed recovery, off-site data protection, Office365 fortification, and ransomware prevention tools.

Still, the diverse ecosystem does create wider attack vectors and more cybersecurity vulnerabilities. This is where Continuity Centers comes in by providing support and a safety net. It also provides ongoing white hat hacker-level vulnerability and penetration testing, to help ACLD identify areas of potential exposure and provide remediation steps to help secure their infrastructure, both internally and from the outside.

"They have been very effective for us," VanDyke says of Continuity Centers.

"At Continuity Centers, we always look to give back to organizations that provide services to help others reach their full potential, and being asked to help protect their business is an honor"

-- Gregory Tellone, CEO,
Continuity Centers

While Continuity Centers works to uncover and remediate vulnerabilities within their IT systems, it also provides managed Disaster Recovery, which includes secure offsite backup to geographically separated cloud repositories, completely isolated from ACLD's network, with immutability and a Service Level Agreement with customized Recovery Time Objectives to bring their most critical servers online during any type of disaster, including a ransomware attack.

"At Continuity Centers, we always look to give back to organizations that provide services to help others reach their full potential, and being asked to help protect their business is an honor", said Gregory Tellone, CEO of Continuity Centers.

Van Dyke credits Continuity Centers for sitting down with ACLD and creating a tailored program to fit their needs. He said ACLD gets boutique-style service while tapping into the resources of a large organization who is always there for us.

"As big as they are, they still carved out a disaster recovery solution, just for us," VanDyke says.

About Us

CONTINUITY CENTERS

Continuity Centers has a laser-focus on protecting your business operations and your data, ensuring you are recoverable at time of disaster, whether it be an accidental or natural disaster or ransomware attack. Our Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS), Workplace Recovery, and Business Continuity services focus 100% on keeping you in business.

We employ seasoned IT professionals with extensive experience in combating cybersecurity risks. We are committed to serving people, and are not satisfied until your IT needs are met flawlessly. We provide customers with the confidence that we understand their situation and that we're an ally during their greatest time of need. We guarantee expert IT knowledge from professionals who are committed to your business success. Our services include IT infrastructure monitoring and management, Next-Gen Endpoint Protection, Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR), Vulnerability Scans, Penetration Testing, and Virtual Chief Information Security Officer (VCISO) Cybersecurity Consulting.

There are many other security threats that we all face, which are not covered in this report, that your organization needs to defend itself from. A failure to defend your organization from even one cyber attack can have devastating consequences. Continuity Centers can provide your company with the best possible defense against all of the different types of cyberattacks.

Contact Us

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