



Coon Rapids Business Spotlight

Astound Video Duplication & Transfer

Just as technology evolves, so does Stephen Maas' business of transferring irreplaceable moments and memories from outdated media to forms that are easily accessible today such as DVD or digital files. During college, Maas naturally gravitated to this industry as friends quickly realized he was the "go-to guy" for preserving memories. He accumulated equipment from his experience with TV production and from there, project-by-project, slowly gained access to a variety of equipment to meet unique requests.

"An example of a more unique task we had, a pastor wanted to save the audio from 1970s church bells," explains Maas. "We had to break the cartridges and then we were able to save the audio of these bells ringing."

Some projects will be so unique that Maas will have to invest in new equipment to accommodate the customer's request, which he is willing to do. Although no two projects are alike, the "usual" requests Astound receives includes audio work, making photos from slides and making digital copies of customers' nostalgic moments of graduations, weddings, childhood memories, etc.

Being a family-owned business, Maas finds it extremely important that his staff treats each customer's belongings as if it were their own.

"With everything we do, we handle something that is irreplaceable." With the Coon Rapids location, Astound Video now has five locations in the Twin Cities. Every project being worked on stays within the Twin Cities, and many projects are completed at the Coon Rapids location.

As equipment varies from each location and each request is customized, some projects might be brought to another store and then returned to the original location once it is finished. In 17 years of business, Astound has never lost a tape. Maas says he is fond of his newest location in Coon Rapids as it is the gateway to the northern suburbs and the people have been a pleasure to work with.

"We really pride ourselves on superior customer service. Come in and talk to us, we can work with you on the project you have." Quick Facts: » 5 locations in the Twin Cities » Located at 363 Coon Rapids Blvd. NW » Astound can transfer all types of tape formats: old 8mm film, Hi-8, VHS, Beta, Betamax, ¾" and nearly anything else!



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