



Paul Giannamore

HYPERDO MAN – Chris Wendt is the owner of Hyperdo, a locally based business that performs Web site design and hosting for companies from at least a dozen states. Wendt said he and his wife met at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in the early 1990s and chose to move back to Steubenville because of its atmosphere as a good place to raise a family.

Hyper on the Web

Hyperdo clients are found across the nation

By **PAUL GIANNAMORE**
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STUEBENVILLE — Small and high-tech is possible in the region.

Just ask Chris Wendt, whose Web design business Hyperdo continues to add clients from throughout the nation.

Wendt met his wife while attending the Franciscan University of Steubenville, coming there in 1991 from Tempe, Ariz.

"I was struck with the beauty of the area and how beautiful Jefferson County is," Wendt said.

After graduation, he taught college freshman composition for 10 years in Scranton, Pa., and Elmira, N.Y. In 2002, he decided it was time for a career change.

He chose computers.

"I wrote my first program in BASIC in 1985, and I was fascinated," he said.

He and his wife decided to move to the Steubenville area "because of what it means for the future of our children."

The Wendts had friends here.

And Hyperdo was born in 2004.

Wendt said the name comes from the word "hyperdulia," which means super praise, "the best you can get."

The business started with a few business Web sites and continued to grow by word of mouth. Hyperdo now has more than 75 clients in at least a dozen states, from New York to San Diego.

Wendt has two part-time workers and continues to expand as the business grows.

The office is in the Wendts' home. "I embrace telecommuting. The technology made it possible," he said. Electronic whiteboards and live chat make presentations and meetings online possible, he said.

And, Wendt said, the area is not off the Internet map.

"The area has the infrastructure. The broadband infrastructure is there. Steubenville and Jefferson County have enough to do business with the world," he said. "I was able to combine a love for this area and the future of my kids with doing what I like to do."

Among the advantages he sees to the area are the university community, the various activities available

and the "hometown America" feel, "where we can teach kids values and then they keep them."

Hyperdo is up to date, using Web 2.0 technology, with lots of video and interactivity for users while moving their mouse around a Web site. Wendt uses open source technology that keeps the sites cost-effective.

"It's come of age and going mainstream for all business. It's highly interactive and cost effective," he said. "There is lots of content management. The system is globally developed, with home-grown systems, with constant development. I can use 3,600 plug-ins to choose from."

Hyperdo uses "virtual dedicated hosting." The servers for a Steubenville business Web site are actually in the Silicon Valley, he said.

"Instead of going down for a day or week or more, there is one operating system per site. Sites that use shared resources slow the system," he said.

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