



Profiles of Technology
IN TENNESSEE

The Power of Love Meets the Power of the Internet

Name:

Daryl Phillips, Executive Director of the Hickman County Economic Development Association

Associated Link:

www.match.com

Products/Services:

Matchmaking services

Location:

Centerville/Hickman County

Innovative Insight: *“In a rural county like Hickman, we’ll probably never get a higher education institution. But the Internet provides opportunities for people in this county to go back to school.”*

The Importance of

Broadband: *“I am very much the technology and broadband supporter. The Internet truly can be the great equalizer.”*

The Impact of the Internet:

“The Internet can augment any facet of your life, from your personal life and making connections like my wife and I, to exchanging ideas with people I meet in my professional life, as well.”

Centerville, TN - As the Executive Director for the Hickman County Economic Development Association, Daryl Phillips is a champion for expanding broadband technology to all corners of his county...but not for the reasons one might think. While Daryl recognizes the impact broadband can have on the economic success of Hickman County, he has witnessed firsthand the profound impact broadband can have on more personal aspects of life. More specifically, on matters of the heart.

Back in 2001, Daryl found that with a busy career and an even busier schedule, he just didn't have the time to meet eligible, quality romantic prospects. So he decided to give the wildly popular matchmaking site, Match.com, a try. At the same time Gayle Shay, Associate Professor at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music and Director of Vanderbilt Opera Theatre, was also trying her luck at the online dating game. The couple met online, began emailing back and forth, and went out on their first date on January 12, 2002. By June of 2003, they were married and went on to live happily ever after...right? Isn't that how it usually happens? In this high-tech couple's case, there was a little more to it than that!

Wanting an engagement ring with a history, Gayle set out to locate the perfect ring online. And locate it she did, on Ebay.com! She also used an Internet search for her wedding dress and wound up buying it online, too.

After the couple married, Daryl set his sights on earning his MBA – online, of course. He graduated in 2005 with a degree from Tennessee Tech that he earned entirely through online courses. “In a rural county like Hickman, we’ll probably never get a higher education institution,” he says. “But the Internet provides opportunities for people in this county to go back to school. The Internet truly can be the great equalizer.”

“I am very much the technology and broadband supporter,” says Daryl. “The Internet can augment any facet of your life, from your personal life and making connections like my wife and I, to exchanging ideas with people I meet in my professional life, as well.”

Daryl is the perfect example of someone whose entire life has been transformed by broadband technology, and now as a member of the Connected Tennessee eCommunity Leadership Team in Hickman County, he wants to make sure other people have the same opportunities he had for making lasting connections and life choices.

About TN 95:

Citizens across the state are using technology in innovative ways to ensure that Tennessee remains the place of choice to live, work and raise a family. Connected Tennessee is profiling businesses and Tennesseans in each of the state's 95 counties to identify lessons learned on the path to successful innovation. For more information visit our Web site at www.connectedtn.org or call 615-242-9508.