



John Elwood, president of Elwood Staffing, sits in the board room of the Columbus-based business.

The Republic photo by Joe Harping

Effort = success

By Paul Minnis
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John Elwood was desperate to succeed when he tried out for the 1988 Olympics in table tennis.

Now, his interest in sports is more about staying fit, even as he chalks up tennis championships locally.

It's not so important that he leaves a legacy. But if he takes the time to do something, he insists on doing it right.

Elwood, president of Elwood Staffing, is a 36-year-old family man knee-deep in

Elwood has passion to always give 100%

community efforts that make a difference in Columbus.

He knows he wants to play a role in Columbus' future, but he wants time and circumstances to dictate what he will do and when.

Political aspirations? Maybe someday. If it happens it will be on his terms, because he wants to have the time and

passion to do all it takes to succeed.

For now he is happy to contribute in a more modest way that befits a man trying to balance his job with raising a family.

He and his wife have a 3-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy.

Elwood is on the board of Su Casa and served as its president from 2005 to 2006. He is president of Columbus Park Foundation and a member of Columbus Rotary Club. He was a Book Buddy last

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Biography

Who: John Elwood.

Age: 36.

Occupation: President and chief operating officer of Elwood Staffing.

Education:

- Columbus North High School, 1989.
- Indiana University, where he studied

business with an emphasis in marketing.

Community involvement:

- Su Casa Board of Directors, immediate past president.
- Columbus Parks Foundation president.
- Columbus Rotary Club.

• Volunteers for "Book Buddies" program.

Interests: Plays tennis and ice hockey. Runs twice a week. Holds season pass to Indianapolis Colts games.

Family: Wife, Amber; daughter, Josie, 3; and son, Hudson, 16 months.

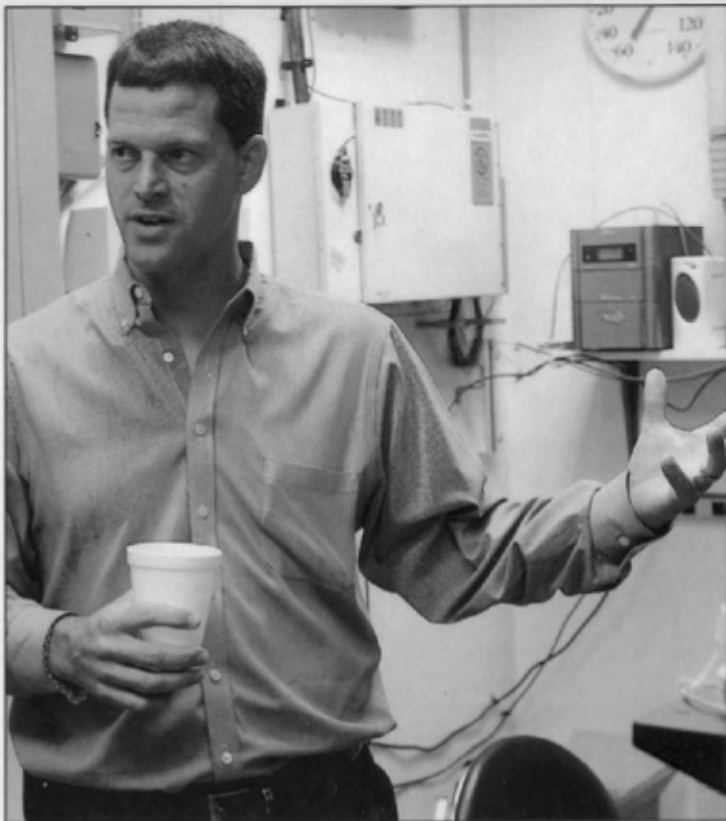


The Republic photos by Joe Herring

Above: John Elwood returns a volley to Andrew Lahr during the singles final of the City Tennis Tournament in 2005.

Right: John Elwood, president of Elwood Staffing, discusses his company's growth over the past four years.

Below: Awards decorate a countertop at Elwood Staffing.



ELWOOD

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year, donating an hour a week reading to children.

He is passionate about all of them. "If you are fortunate enough to have success and influence, you give back in some way," he said.

Channeling his drive

Elwood credited his parents with instilling in him his thirst for achievement. They always encouraged him and his siblings and sacrificed a lot to give them the edges in life they needed.

Early in his life, Elwood, a Columbus native, established himself as a more-than-capable table tennis player. His parents drove him to tournaments across the country, and Elwood, from age 12 to 17, never was ranked any lower than fifth in the nation.

He trained for the Olympics in 1988 and just missed playing on the team.

From 2003 to 2006, Elwood and a partner won the city tournament tennis championship. He had to miss this

"He just has that sense he needed to even up with people. We're very proud of him."

— David Elwood, John's father

year's journey because he has been busy.

Elwood, an Indiana University business graduate, said his competitive nature probably comes in part from being the youngest in his family.

"If I was going to compete in touch football, I was going to have to figure out how I could do that," he said.

"It was a little bit of a survival thing."

Elwood joined his father, David, and an older brother, Mark, at Elwood Staffing in 1996. The oldest brother, Mike, joined about three years ago, making this a true family business.

Elwood Staffing provides temporary

workers of all skill levels and professional backgrounds to companies that can opt to hire them in permanent positions. It also does direct-placement hiring.

Elwood is enthusiastic about how much the company continues to grow.

And finally his full-time employees are learning the proper respect, but in a relaxed, joking way.

"Am I the best boss?" Elwood asked mischievously as he walked past a female employee.

"You're tops," answered the woman.

Mark Elwood said his little brother approaches his job and all his involvements with thoroughness and patience.

"He pays attention to detail; he's com-

mitted to doing things right," Mark said.

Mark recalled some 10 years ago when he asked his brother, who was working in Bloomington, Ill., whether he'd work at Elwood Staffing with Mark and their father.

John accepted the offer, taking about a 50-percent pay cut in the process, all for a company that appeared poised to grow.

"He made a sacrifice not everyone would make," Mark said.

John's father, David, said his son always has been disciplined.

All through school, John never had to be told to do his homework. He just went to his room and did what had to be done.

John also was conscientious.

David said his son at about 10 years old sometimes would ask his parents for money. And even though David and his wife didn't expect repayment, John surprised them.

"He just has that sense he needed to even up with people," David said. "We're very proud of him."