

# TNC Portrait



Arleen Chafitz

There are two words that don't often go together, "green" and "security." e-End, a certified woman-owned Frederick-based data destruction and electronics recycling company, has managed to combine those terms into a solution for its ever-expanding list of clients that includes the Department of Defense, FEMA, the Federal Communications Commission, Secret Service, plus Fortune 500 companies, healthcare providers and even foreign embassies.

When organizations have old electronics along with hard drives, back-up tapes, floppy disks, CD/DVDs, and even items such as x-rays, that need to be properly destroyed and recycled they call on e-End. e-End keeps the federal sector and commercial clients in compliance with the numerous regulations that require the safeguarding of data and the proper disposal of electronic equipment.

**"We've never visited a company that didn't have a room full of old equipment."**

Arleen Chafitz, owner and CEO of e-End, discussed how hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent on cyber-security to protect valuable data and the same data they are protecting, in many cases, ends up being given away or even sold at auctions to the highest bidder. According to Chafitz, "There hasn't been an agency or company we have visited that doesn't have a room, and in some cases warehouses, full of old equipment. Most of the equipment in storage has data containing media, like hard drives loaded with confidential and secure information. Not only does the data on the equipment need to be properly destroyed, the equipment must be properly recycled. Our job is to destroy the data before it is compromised."

Those living in the DC area in the '70s may recall Chafitz Electronics, the company Arleen and her husband Steve began which pioneered the beginning of the consumer electronic revolution. Arleen likes to say "We have come full circle. We introduced many of the same products we are now recycling." ■



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