

SAGE MIP FUND ACCOUNTING

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

CUSTOMER

Alzheimer's Community Care Association (ACCA)

INDUSTRY

Nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide active leadership in the community for promoting and providing services and resources for patients of Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

LOCATION

West Palm Beach, Florida

Number of Locations

One

SYSTEM

Sage MIP Fund Accounting

ACCA Cuts Two Days Off Monthly Reporting Cycle

In 1996, a group of concerned citizens, caregivers, and donors decided that those dedicating themselves to Alzheimer's patients shouldn't have to go it alone. They joined efforts to establish local programs and services for neighbors and friends, whose families were affected by Alzheimer's. From vision and need, a new service organization was created—The Alzheimer's Community Care Association of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Inc. (ACCA).

"The need for community-based direct care services became so overwhelming that a local, nonprofit care provider was urgently needed," said Mary Barnes, executive director, ACCA.

Obtaining funding for programs was only part of the challenge of launching a new organization. As the first ACCA employee, Brian Ritola, fiscal assistant to the director of fiscal & operations, was charged with establishing administrative systems that would give the new organization a stable base for long-term growth.

"One of my first priorities was to set up an accounting system that would support



a lean finance group, and provide good information to our donors and funding agencies. Our desire to maintain a local focus made it even more important to us to be able to let our donors and board know how their money is used—day-by-day, if necessary."

Finding the Best Fund Accounting Solution

Talking to other nonprofit financial professionals at an industry conference, ACCA's fiscal director repeatedly heard about Sage MIP Fund Accounting from Sage Software, which was developed specifically for nonprofit organizations. Sage MIP Fund Accounting received excellent

CHALLENGE

Support a lean finance group, and provide quality reports and information to donors and funding agencies.

SOLUTION

Sage MIP Fund Accounting, the software solution, which offers mid-sized nonprofit organizations an unparalleled combination of features and functionality.

RESULTS

Gained ability to quickly and easily respond to requests for information; cut at least two days off the monthly reporting cycle; found best combination of functionality, service, and cost-effectiveness.



Your business in mind.

"There were some systems that had more bells and whistles, but Sage MIP Fund Accounting had the best combination of functionality and service for the price."

—Brian Ritola
Fiscal Assistant to the Director
of Fiscal & Operations
Alzheimer's Community Care
Association (ACCA)

ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software has been responding to the needs, challenges, and dreams of small and mid-sized businesses for over 25 years. With a complete range of business management solutions and services, Sage Software helps companies improve customer relationships, reduce costs, and automate and integrate a variety of operational activities. Its solutions support the specialty needs of a broad scope of industry segments, including manufacturing, distribution, construction, real estate, nonprofit, and professional services.



references, as did the customer support department. "I'd gotten used to paying a consultant \$125 an hour to support a product that had no customer service policy. When people talked about this accounting package, they not only talk about the product, but also about the company's one-hour support service call-back policy, and highly knowledgeable customer support representatives."

Sage MIP Fund Accounting also offered Windows compatibility and easy maintenance—requirements set by ACCA's MIS director.

After a comparison of five systems, ACCA's fiscal personnel and management decided to implement Sage MIP Fund Accounting. "There were some systems that had more bells and whistles, but Sage MIP Fund Accounting had the best combination of functionality and service for the price. It also had a 90-day money back guarantee, which made us feel more comfortable," commented Ritola.

A System that Will Last

Ritola and other ACCA fiscal personnel worked with a Sage Software business partner specializing in financial services for nonprofits. Over the course of several months, Ritola and the rest of the fiscal department designed a chart of accounts that matched ACCA's fund accounting needs. "We took it slow because we knew we were creating a system that would last," he explained.

Feeling Satisfied with the Results

"People at ACCA have always had Sage MIP Fund Accounting, so they don't know how efficient our reporting and financial management systems are, compared to adapting to a commercial accounting model," said Ritola. "I know we've cut at least two days off the monthly reporting cycle."

ACCA has also never seen a financial department backlog, an achievement of which Ritola is very proud.

Most important, however, is the level of service the fiscal department is able to provide the people who make ACCA's good works possible—the donors. "We can instantly respond to inquiries," Ritola added. "Without Sage MIP Fund Accounting, we'd have to pool information from several different spreadsheets to come up with the answer." As a professional in an organization dedicated to operating on the community level, this may be the most rewarding aspect of successful fund accounting.



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