Robust financial software supports nonprofit mission

Center for Community Progress

"One of the most important benefits we've enjoyed with Sage Intacct — and something every nonprofit can benefit from — is the ability to better manage our funding. With reliable, timely reports, we're able to demonstrate how efficiently we use each donor's funding to advance our mission, while cutting our project administration time by 25%. The greatest impact Sage Intacct makes is freeing up more time to achieve our mission."

Brian Flood
Director of Finance and Administration,
Center for Community Progress

Company overview

The mission of Center for Community Progress is to foster strong, equitable communities where vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties are transformed into assets for neighbors and neighborhoods. Founded in 2010, the Center for Community Progress is the leading national, nonprofit resource for urban, suburban, and rural communities seeking to address the full cycle of property revitalization. The organization fulfills its mission by nurturing strong leadership and supporting systemic reforms.

Results with Sage Intacct

- Gained efficient visibility into project financials
- Scaled processes to avoid added headcount
- Software paid for itself in less than 3 months

Company
Center for Community Progress

Location
Michigan, US

Industry
Nonprofit

Sage Products
Sage Intacct

From a future planning standpoint, Sage Intacct has made a big difference.

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Soon after the mortgage crisis hit the United States, national leaders organized to help communities across the country tackle the unprecedented increase in vacant properties. Since 2010, the Center for Community Progress has worked to foster strong, equitable communities where vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties are transformed into assets for neighbors and neighborhoods. The nonprofit manages educational programming, including a national conference, provides technical assistance to urban, suburban, and rural communities, and drives policy development and research to support its mission.

Upon joining Community Progress as Director of Finance and Administration, Brian Flood immediately saw that the organization needed more sophisticated software to track projects and grants. "Based on many years of previous experience with Sage Intacct, I was very confident it was the right choice to meet the center's financial management and reporting needs," he said. "The solution's AICPA endorsement, cloud-based access, and integration capabilities made our decision to replace QuickBooks easy, and CliftonLarsonAllen's expertise configuring Sage Intacct to our specific needs was extremely beneficial," said Brian.

Project visibility drives donor confidence

Sage Intacct provides powerful reporting capabilities that track Community Progress' financial metrics across key dimensions for deeper insight into the organization. Using the system, Brian can tag transactions with specific projects, funders, and locations, and then filter, group, and organize the financial data accordingly. "Thanks to the visibility we have in Sage Intacct, we can easily look at our real-time project expenses and labor, funding by source, or other KPIs to see how each project is performing and what a typical project costs the organization," shared Brian. "We receive all types of public and private funding, so it's crucial that Sage Intacct also provides detailed reports for each grant, many of which support several different projects and have custom reporting requirements," said Brian.

If a new municipality or organization requests assistance, the center has a good handle on what resources it would take based on similar projects tracked in Sage Intacct. According to Brian, "From a future planning standpoint, Sage Intacct has made a big difference. The insight it provides helps us choose where to spend our limited time based on what will meet the expectations of our funders and further our mission. We can see how costs vary for certain types of projects, events, or locations, and have better understanding of where to focus our resources."

Through permissions-based Sage Intacct dashboards with current staff hours and rates, managers can quickly monitor project status. In addition, Community Progress can pull in operational data to track its program outcomes, assess performance, and determine the true cost per attendee for conferences and events.

Automated financial processes minimize overhead

As the organization has grown over the years, so have its efficiency gains, as a result of streamlined processes in Sage Intacct. The lean finance team at Community Progress no longer spends time manually entering and allocating staff hours in Excel to support foundation grants, government funding, and fee-for-service contracts. "We never could have generated this type of reporting out of QuickBooks without hiring another full-time finance person, which would cost us more than we're paying for our Sage Intacct solution," said Brian.

Brian continued, "When I look at the tremendous productivity improvements we've seen with Sage Intacct, one of our biggest time savings comes from having time tracking capabilities for all of our individual employees across the country right in our core financial system. It takes them much less time to fill out a time report in Nexonia, which automatically syncs with Sage Intacct, so we now have a single source of truth." Community Progress also connected Sage Intacct with Nexonia for more timely and accurate expense reporting, with Paychex for payroll entries, and with CliftonLarsonAllen's allocation management app to allocate labor costs to specific projects.
"Sage Intacct provides enhanced financial controls, which, along

with its seamless integrations across multiple systems, ensures that all costs are correctly assigned to the right projects so our audits go smoothly," mentioned Brian. "We've definitely reduced our audit fees by giving auditors view-only access to our supporting documentation and electronic approvals in the system." He concluded, "With Sage Intacct, I know we made the right choice because we benefit from a scalable system that's always innovating to support our continued growth," said Brian.

Sage