

American Red Cross—Tulsa Area chapter uses Sage Fixed Assets to avoid disasters



The Tulsa Area Chapter of the American Red Cross helps residents in 15 Oklahoma counties prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. In 2007, volunteers responded to 579 home fires, assisting families with clothes, food, replacement medications, a hotel stay, and the first month's rent at a new home. Also, the chapter taught more than 18,000 people the lifesaving skills of CPR, first aid, and the use of an automated external defibrillator. Children are taught water safety, first aid, and how to be safe when home alone, along with disease prevention and emergency preparedness. At the Red Cross, there is no such thing as a small disaster—its volunteers want everyone to be prepared.

ARCTAC has a sizable array of fixed assets, including equipment, buildings, computer systems, furniture, and a fleet of trucks, vans, trailers, semis, and other vehicles. It had always managed the assets manually using paper and spreadsheets, which was very time consuming and made detailed fixed asset depreciation reports difficult to generate. An external auditor suggested automating with Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation, a comprehensive fixed asset management solution.

Monthly depreciation

ARCTAC now uses Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation to manage its entire fixed asset lifecycle, from acquisition to disposal. Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation provides a complete overview of the agency's fixed assets.

“Our initial hope was that Sage Fixed Assets would allow us to prepare monthly depreciation journal entries, which were previously done only quarterly or at year's end,” says Chandra Binder, accounting specialist. “After installing the software, we learned it could do all that plus so much more.”

Having monthly depreciation entries allows ARCTAC to spread expenses evenly throughout the year. The organization can also allocate depreciation over multiple locations and departments, for better management decisions.

Customer

American Red Cross/Tulsa Area Chapter (ARCTAC)

Industry

Custom homebuilder

Location

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Number of locations

6

Number of employees

40 full-time

System

Sage Fixed Assets

Challenge

Manual tracking of the chapter's diverse fixed assets was cumbersome and time consuming and made depreciation reports hard to produce.

Solution

Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation, integrated with the organization's nonprofit management systems.

Results

Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation has trimmed 30 percent of the time the agency previously spent on fixed asset tracking, depreciation, and reporting.

Easy reports

Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation has given ARCTAC great reporting capabilities. The software has enhanced its ability to identify individual assets, create depreciation expense reports, and summarize assets by class, department, or location. It's simple to print a list of the assets assigned to a specific office and then ask staff members to verify it. This has proved to be a tremendous benefit for keeping tabs on the status of assets and determining which ones need to be disposed of or replaced.

Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation also provides reporting options that were never available to the agency before. "We can always balance to the general ledger after making an entry," Binder says. "And with the monthly analysis detailing journal entries, I can inspect the data and automatic calculations and make adjustments wherever necessary."

Saving hours of effort

ARCTAC has had an opportunity to use Sage Business Care, its technical support and maintenance plan. It found representatives to be very helpful, and issues were resolved quickly.

Best of all has been the time savings the agency has experienced since implementing the software. "Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation is saving 30 percent of the time we used to put into manual tracking and reporting," says Binder. "We can hit a button and pull up information in seconds, rather than spending hours with a calculator. The software helps us make better management decisions and be more efficient with limited resources."

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Chandra Binder
Accounting specialist
American Red Cross—Tulsa Area Chapter

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