

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

“Helping People, Changing Lives” With Help From Wessel Consulting

Central Pennsylvania Community Action (CPCA) is funded almost entirely through government grants, and all of its bookkeeping was done by hand, involving the compilation of its spreadsheets for the entire year. Although not ideal, manual processes worked as long as grants were audited individually.

Then government requirements changed, and audits had to be done in batches. With the help of its auditors, CPCA went searching for a centralized automated system. The group found an early incarnation of MIP Fund Accounting and implemented it themselves.

Wessel Consulting stepped in as a business partner. “The folks at Wessel were full of ideas,” says Jill Herrington, fiscal manager at CPCA. “From customized user screens to shortcuts we didn’t know existed. They also sponsor user group sessions whenever there’s an update or a new product.”

PAYROLL AT THE “PRESS OF A BUTTON”

Herrington reports that one of her biggest challenges in those early years was payroll. “When everything was being done manually, it was a nightmare. Payroll had to be allocated, distributed, put in a spreadsheet, and a journal entry created, and I was always worried about making a mistake,” she says.

“Wessel recommended a payroll module that has really made life easier. All I have to do is enter a distribution code, and it transfers to the general ledger. I can allocate by hours, by individual grant, anything, literally with the press of a button. This single feature has greatly simplified payroll and is probably the biggest time-saver. It saves us at least an entire day’s work, every pay period.”

FIXED ASSET TRACKING

Remember that year’s worth of spreadsheets? The Fixed Assets module of MIP Fund Accounting has made them a thing of the past. “It has eliminated the human error of manual entry, as well as the need to come up with our own formulas. Now, we can manage assets, calculate depreciation, and transfer to the general ledger—all from one place,” Herrington explains.



Customer:

Central Pennsylvania
Community Action, Inc.
www.cpcaa.net

Nonprofit Type:

Community Action
Locations: 6
Employees: 103
2010 Budget: \$8.2M

MIP Product:

MIP Fund Accounting
Users on MIP Product: 3

MIP Product Modules:

- General Ledger
- Payroll (w/direct deposit)
- Fixed Assets
- Accounts Payable
- Data Import/Export



CHALLENGE:

Manual bookkeeping resulted in redundancies and data-entry errors. Payroll and audits were stressful and time-consuming.

SOLUTION:

MIP Fund Accounting with full suite of modules, implemented and supported by Wessel Consulting.

RESULTS:

System eliminated a significant amount of spreadsheets and saves more than eight hours every pay period.

"It's wonderful that MIP has these products available," she adds. "Everything is compatible and designed to work together. We never have to worry about errors or redundancy or needing to do an extra step. It's all right there!"



SIMPLE SHORTCUTS

One of the first things that CPCA learned from Wessel was how to customize workstations and set users up with time-saving shortcuts. "These seemingly small and simple customizations have had a huge impact on daily operations," says Herrington.

"Another shortcut Wessel showed us was the 'offset button.' When entering a transaction, we used to enter two lines from the debit and the credit. The offset button does that automatically. Not only that, MIP Fund Accounting can save recurring monthly transactions in batches, so instead of reentering the same transactions month after month, you just change the date and save it as new. It's yet another little thing that makes life easier, but it really adds up. We estimate that these shortcuts save us another hour of productivity per day."

A SOUND INVESTMENT

"I don't ever see us changing," says Herrington of the company's confidence in Wessel as a business partner. "They provided quality training and allow us to network with other nonprofits. And with Wessel, I never worry. If I have any questions, they always have an answer."

With the peace of mind of knowing that Wessel is in its corner, CPCA can focus its precious resources on what it does best—helping the neediest members of their community.

"With Wessel, I never worry. If I have any questions, they always have an answer."

—Jill Herrington, Fiscal Manager, CPCA

"Wessel recommended a payroll module that has really made life easier. It saves us at least an entire day's work, every pay period."

—Jill Herrington, Fiscal Manager, CPCA

About CPCA: The Central Pennsylvania Community Action agency's mission is to strengthen communities in Centre and Clearfield counties by helping families and individuals become self-sufficient. Its services range from assisting with basic needs, such as food and utilities, to housing services and job training.

About Wessel Consulting: We are committed through practical advice and effective implementation to "Bridge The Gap" between client goals and the resources needed to accomplish those goals.

As certified public accountants and business consultants, we keep informed about significant developments affecting business and industry and the impact on financial reporting needs. The consulting services that we provide will assist you in selecting and utilizing information systems that will enable you to manage your business effectively.

With Wessel Consulting as your business partner, your organization will be prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.



215 Main Street

Johnstown PA 15901

(814) 536-7864 • Fax: (814) 535-4332

www.wesselcpa.com

