

Success Story

Keeping up with increasing complexity without additional headcount

IslandWood

“Not only has Sage Intacct saved us several days of cobbling together spreadsheets each month, it has allowed us to keep up with increasing complexity without additional headcount. If we didn’t have Sage Intacct, we would have needed at least another half-time resource at around \$15,000 per year – not an insignificant cost for a nonprofit like us.”

Jennifer Sharp

Senior Accounting Manager, IslandWood



Company overview

Founded in 1999, IslandWood is a 255-acre outdoor environmental learning center on Bainbridge Island that serves more than 12,000 school children each year throughout the Puget Sound region. It hosts summer camps, community programs, a graduate program in environmental education in partnership with the University of Washington, and events.

Results with Sage Intacct

- Eliminated over 360 manual person-hours annually.
- Shortened monthly close by 2 days.
- Gained real-time visibility into programs, donors, funds, fund types, and grants.

Sage

Company
IslandWood

Location
Washington, US

Industry
Nonprofit

Sage Products
Sage Intacct

ISLANDWOOD™ 



IslandWood replaced its previous systems with Sage Intacct's modern financial applications, significantly increasing the organization's day-to-day productivity.

With expansion comes complexity

IslandWood is a nationally recognized outdoor learning center that connects thousands of children and adults to the natural world. After years of growth, this educational nonprofit decided to shift its business systems to 100% cloud-based software to handle its ongoing expansion. It looked for a best-in-class cloud financial management application that could easily interface with its Salesforce CRM and manage the organization's growing financial complexities across a broader range of donors, grants, and programs.

Previously, IslandWood was using a hodgepodge of different systems that it manually merged together each month, and its finance team relied heavily on Excel spreadsheets. For example, they entered all school and customer invoices into QuickBooks, and then had to wait until the end of the month to put summary entries into Blackbaud Financial Edge, a nonprofit-focused accounting system. As a result, the organization wasn't able to monitor its income streams, expenses, or cash balances in real time.

"After completing our evaluation of potential new accounting systems, we chose Sage Intacct because it delivered everything we needed to efficiently run our organization in a reliable, easy to access, web-based solution," said Jennifer Sharp, senior accounting manager at IslandWood.

Eliminating several days of duplicate data entry each month

IslandWood replaced its previous systems with Sage Intacct's modern financial applications, significantly increasing the organization's day-to-day productivity. Sage Intacct automates financial processes such as invoicing, accounts receivables, credit card reconciliation, accounts payables, and reporting – reducing the time it takes the finance team to consolidate and close the books by at least two days each month.

As a result of the seamless integration between Sage Intacct and Salesforce, IslandWood also has streamlined its entire sales cycle from quotes, to invoices, to payment processing. The tight connection between these two best in-class systems eliminates manual data re-entry and gives each member of IslandWood's sales and finance teams a consistent, real-time view of the donation tracking information they need – where and when they need it.

In addition, IslandWood now inputs credit card purchases directly into Sage Intacct daily. By processing expenses as they come in, rather than waiting until the end of the month, its AP clerk saves at least a day of work each month. In total, Sage Intacct's automated processes save the organization's lean accounting staff around 30 hours of work per month.



Gaining greater visibility across all aspects of the organization

IslandWood's greatest benefit from moving to Sage Intacct has been its radically improved financial and operational visibility. In addition to using Sage Intacct's pre-built library of reports, IslandWood created several custom reports that leverage Sage Intacct's multi-dimensional general ledger to track key operational metrics, improve fund and grant management, and streamline expense tracking. IslandWood "tags" each transaction for easy reporting against dimensions like event, fund type, specific grant, or customer segment, so the finance team can now slice and dice its financial data however it wants.

"Now, I use my custom reports in Sage Intacct to give our CEO and senior vice presidents a consistent, real-time view of our financial data – from high-level summaries of funding information and budgets, down to individual contributions and program expenses," commented Jennifer.

Sage Intacct also gives IslandWood reliable visibility into donations and credit card transactions, with automatic postings to the general ledger so the organization doesn't have to wait until the end of the month to analyze its budget to goals. As a result, the company benefits from error-free insight into its different grants and fund types, because it can run any report on an individual fund, or across a whole category.

