



CANUCKS PLACE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



THE PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE WITH BAASS HELPS US TO MAXIMIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SAGE 300 - A POWERFUL, SOPHISTICATED TOOL, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND MANAGERIALLY

Canucks Place Children's Hospice is renowned for their leading-edge health care. They take health care very seriously and believe they should do everything in their power to maintain their edge. That extends to their information technologies and financial reporting systems in addition to their best medical practices. With the latest version of Sage 300 (formerly Accpac), they are able to maintain their system to ensure the highest levels of financial responsibility, transparency, and accountability.

The Current System

As a nonprofit society, funding for services comes from personal and corporate donations, as well as other charitable organizations and government. As a result, financial reporting plays a very important role in governance and financial accountability.

In 2006, to track money flow

against organizational goals the director of finance, Russell Cullingworth, set up a strategic accountability reporting framework in Sage 300 using five key areas:

- Pediatric Palliative Care
- Financial Sustainability
- Team Environment
- Operational Excellence
- Knowledge and Research

This unique framework allowed Canuck Place's general ledger to align directly with their strategic plan. "The great thing about Sage is that it was completely flexible and could accommodate our framework which allows us to report performance against strategy," says Cullingworth. "As anyone in finance knows, it is not easy to match spending with strategic and operational goals using a standard accounting approach."

Keeping at the Forefront

Canuck Place has worked with

Sage Software Business Partner, BAASS Business Solutions for over 10 years. BAASS supplies consulting, implementation, and customization services. "We are committed to ensuring Canuck Place's financial system is optimized so they can gain maximum benefit from their business management solutions and achieve their objectives," says Wendy Gorrie, Project Manager at BAASS Business Solutions, New Westminster. "We are sensitive to the fact that funds available must be put to the best possible use and do everything in our power to ensure they are allocated to the programs for kids and families in need of their support."

When the new upgrade was released, BAASS recommended that Canuck Place take advantage of its new features. BAASS consultants performed the upgrade - including a test upgrade, live conversion, and installation in just two days. The value to Canuck

Place was immediately apparent.

More Detailed, Improved Accountability

The new features in Sage 300 have improved the speed and efficiency of some functions as well as the ability to provide financial information for internal guidance. The organization reports to a board comprising of leaders in business, government, and non-profit sectors. "The Audit Committee and Board are highly committed to making sure that money raised is spent wisely and our financial reporting systems help us to present them with appropriate and relevant information regarding the financial performance of the organization every month," says Cullingworth. "This version allows us to add roll-up accounts, which means we can, for example, consolidate the results of multiple Kids Camp accounts and roll them up to the larger Recreation Therapy account," explains Cullingworth. "This allows us to easily present more detail and allows us to expand our consolidation tree. So a recreation therapist can work with a detailed budget and actuals at the base at the base of the pyramid, which makes it easier for us to really manage smaller projects. The supervisor of the program, management, and the board will be interested in progressively

higher level information, but we can provide them with the complete details if they wish to examine them. This system provides accuracy and transparency and an ability to monitor and report budget variances at any level of the organization."

The Cheque Really is in the Mail

On the efficiency side, the ability of multiple users to enter accounts payable information simultaneously improves Canuck Place's ability to meet payment schedules - especially under deadline pressures. "It used to be that only one person could work at a time," says Cullingworth. "Now we put as many people on as we need and are no longer restricted."

The other feature that has helped them facilitate payables management is the separation of document date from posting date. "This allows us to post in a month different from the document date which allows us to pay vendors based on due date and maintain the accuracy of aging accounts payables," says Cullingworth.

Keeping an Eye on Finances

When dealing with public money, any deviation from the norm is worthy of investigation and the flexibility reporting tool in Sage allows Canuck Place, to identify variances. While upgrading, BAASS added Crystal Reports® into the

Sage300 interface allowing staff to pull up reports directly in Sage using an intuitive query builder.

"BAASS did a great job showing us new features in Sage, and even some older features that we weren't using," says Cullingworth. "The partnership we have with them helps us to maximize the effectiveness of Sage 300 - a powerful, sophisticated tool, both financially and managerially. I look forward to exploring more of the new features in Sage 300 together with them."

