

When organizations streamline their accounting and fundraising processes, they spend less time on administrative duties and more time servicing their donors and

Nonprofit Accounting & Fundraising Integration

FRIENDS OF THE CUMBRES AND TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD, INC., ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Back in 1910, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is the finest and most spectacular example of steam era, narrow gauge mountain railroading in North America. It is located in a little town, corner of the southern Rocky Mountains along the border between Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, Colorado. Today, its steam locomotives travel 94 miles of what was once the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway, carrying visitors over high ridges, through tunnels, and along scenic vistas above yondering peaks.

The Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc. (FCTSR) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Established in 1986 and incorporated in 1989, FCTSR is an organization of FCTSR members from across the United States and several countries overseas. FCTSR and Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Committee work together to preserve and support the railroad and support its operations for the people of Colorado and New Mexico who visit, and the town of Rosamond, California and future generations.

THE BUSINESS CHALLENGE

To manage its fixed accounting, fundraising and membership management, FCTSR was using a well-known business accounting software package, however they needed a more robust solution.

FCTSR used to maintain their current accounting software to accommodate their fund accounting needs, but they could not use that the process would only become more complex in the future. In addition to

fulfilling their allocation needs, they wanted a system that was user-friendly and would help streamline their reporting capabilities.

"We really needed a solution that specifically handled fund accounting," explained Kathleen Rice, Treasurer for the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc. "We had income and expenses that belonged in more than one 'fund' in the software. A member/donor would report that a specific amount go to a specific project, so we had started using the charters in the system for our major projects. However, because we had multiple funds reporting one project in addition to capital campaigns, the process became very complex. We needed a system that would recognize that one or multiple funds could support one or multiple projects."

Processing and CRM challenges surfaced with program tracking, membership reporting and the overall need to track data. FCTSR wanted to be able to track and record split gifts. They wanted their CRM system to record what people were buying at what time and also have the ability to provide membership reporting quickly and easily. By centralizing data about donors and members, their goal was to be able to serve donors' record in one database and know all the ways they had contributed to their organization.

THE ACCUFUND SOLUTION

After reviewing several accounting solutions, the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc. chose and implemented the AccuFund Accounting Suite in 2012. They liked the software system's robust capabilities and competitive pricing, as well as AccuFund's responsive customer service.

and fulfilling their mission. That's exactly what happened with our featured client, **The Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad**, in this Case Study. They automated and centralized their accounting and fundraising functions.

How did they do it? Using [AccuFund's Accounting Suite](#) and [AccuFund CRM](#). Here are some excerpts from the Case Study:

- "The ability to set up a separate budget just for the projects committee and then run reports based on their budget versus actual spent, including encumbrances, allows us to be more on top of our expenditures. I can get expenditures posted and reports run so the projects committee can see how much they've spent on individual projects. That's a huge benefit."
- "In the 16 years I've been here, it was the easiest audit we've ever gone through and I attribute that to AccuFund."
- "It's made a huge difference by allowing us to know whether checks are posted in the accounting system. It's very accurate and reliable and it allows me to reconcile my CRM to what I have in the bank and see that we're tracking properly."

Read [The Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Case Study](#).