

Understanding Nonprofit Financials

WORKSHOP HANDOUTS

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INTRODUCTION

Every nonprofit board member is legally responsible for the financial oversight of the organization he or she serves. You cannot do that without a basic understanding of nonprofit financial statements. This guide is designed to introduce you to the two most important financial documents that you will encounter as a board member — the balance sheet and the income statement — thus helping you meet your fiduciary responsibility.

WHAT ARE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS?

Financial statements are formal written records of your organization's financial activities and position and provide the information you need to identify your organization's financial strengths and weaknesses. Usually, management is responsible for creating the statements, which are typically produced monthly for the month just ended as well as for the year to date. The year-to-date statements provide valuable reference points and allow the board to see how well actual results are following projected assumptions. At year end, the year-to-date figures reflect the accumulation of the previous 12 months of transaction activities applied to the balance sheet and income statement.

WHAT IS THE BALANCE SHEET?

The balance sheet or Statement of Financial Position has traditionally been recognized as the most important of the financial statements due to the comprehensive and illuminating information contained in it. At its simplest, it shows you what your organization owns (assets), what it owes (liabilities), and what remains (net assets) at a specific moment in time.

The balance sheet shows the value of your organization, how much of your debt is current and how much is long-term, and — with the help of ratios — much more (See ratios below).

Some people think of the balance sheet as a scale. Assets and liabilities will not balance until you put net assets on the scale.

Terminology:

Assets are everything an organization owns and are usually listed according to how quickly they can be turned into cash (how "liquid" they are):

- Cash
- Accounts receivable Money owed to your organization
- · Promises to pay Promised or pledged contributions
- Property, Plant, and Equipment Fixed assets

LIABILITIES are everything your organization owes and are usually listed in the order they need to be repaid:

- · Accounts payable Money that your organization knows that it owes vendors and suppliers (unpaid invoices).
- Accrued liabilities Money that your organization estimates that it owes vendors and suppliers (invoices yet to be received).
- Current portion of long-term liabilities The portion of long-term debt that your organization must pay in the next 12 months.
- Long-term liabilities Outstanding debt that has a due date beyond 365 days, such as a mortgage or tax-exempt bond.

NET ASSETS are the difference between what your organization owns and what it owes. Net assets can be *unrestricted* as to their use or time of use. Or they may be *restricted* assets, as when a donor puts limits on their use. The restriction can either be *temporary* (if the restriction can be met either with the passage of time or by the purpose being fulfilled) or *permanent* (if the restriction never expires and cannot be removed.) As an example, the principal of many endowments is permanently restricted.



Tip: The *net asset balance* assists you in determining the underlying financial worth of your organization, because it is the value left after the organization's total liabilities are subtracted from its total assets. It is judicious to monitor your organization's net assets over time; a continuously rising trend for this balance sheet line often represents positive operating margins.

WHAT IS THE INCOME STATEMENT?

The balance sheet captures a moment in time. It's like a snapshot. The income statement or Statement of Activities reflects your organization's financial activity — revenues and expenses — over time (monthly, quarterly, and annually). It's like a report card. At most nonprofits, numbers change rapidly as money comes in and bills are paid. This makes it hard to know how much money you've actually earned. The Income Statement answers that question. It tells you if revenue is going up or down and how much profit is left after deducting what it costs to operate your nonprofit. This profit can be used to grow your nonprofit or pay debt. The income statement does not tell you if your organization's financial condition is weak or strong, what you own, what you owe, and what others owe you (see the Balance Sheet).

Which accounting method does your organization use?

The cash method:

- · Records revenue when it is received.
- · Records expense when it is disbursed.

The accrual method:

- · Records revenue when it is earned.
- Records expense when it is incurred.

Because the Income Statement reflects your organization's financial activity over time, it is usually developed monthly, quarterly, and annually. Many nonprofits also create a projected income statement for the next 12 months, based on predictions.

GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Practices) requires that the income statement classify revenues and expenditures and be shown as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted.

Terminology

REVENUE is income from providing goods or services to your organization's clients, customers, members, etc. and from other earning activities, such as sales of inventory or earnings on investments. It frequently includes both earned income and income from contributions.

CONTRIBUTIONS are assets that have been given to your organization in the form of cash, stock, bonds, art, property, etc.

EXPENSES are what an organization spends to conduct its activities. Expenses on the income statement are grouped into three categories:

- Program Services expenditures, goods, and services used in activities to fulfill the organization's mission, such as salaries and supplies
- Management and General expenditures on general oversight and management, such as on recording keeping and budgeting
- Fundraising expenses incurred in the solicitation of contributions and grants

Non-operating income is revenue not related to your nonprofit's programs or mission. The most common item is *realized* investment income — gain or loss from the sale of invested assets, such as common stock or mutual funds, that are owned by the organization.

NET ASSETS are the difference between what your organization owns and what it owes.

Change in NET ASSETS is the difference between the revenues earned and expenses incurred over a period of time, otherwise known as profit or loss.

RATIOS

The balance sheet and income statement contain a lot of illuminating information, and while the numbers in themselves are significant, so too are ratios based on the numbers. Ratios help you identify your organization's strengths and weaknesses.

Because nonprofits vary in size, structure, income reliability, and other financial aspects, your board, in conversation with management and your auditors, should establish a set of financial ratio standards or benchmarks that are most appropriate for your organization.

Here are five key ratios that you should understand and be able to articulate.

Current Ratio

Source: Balance sheet The current ratio measures your organization's ability to meet its current financial obligations.

Current Assets

Current Liabilities

The higher the ratio, the better off your organization is. A healthy ratio for most organizations is in the 2.0 to 4.0 range. That level indicates that the organization is financially solvent, having double to quadruple the financial means to meet its current financial obligations. A 1:1 ratio means there is no working capital.

Quick Ratio

Source: Balance sheet The quick ratio measures your organization's ability to meet its short-term financial obligations with assets that can quickly be turned to cash.

Cash + Cash Equivalents

Accounts Receivable

Unconditional Promises to Pay

Current Liabilities

Like the current ratio, a range between 2.0 and 4.0 is considered healthy.

Days Cash on Hand

Source: Balance sheet and income statement This may be the most important of all ratios for board members. It measures the number of days of average cash expenses that the organization maintains.

Cash + Short-Term Investments

(Total Expenses – Non-Cash Expenditures)

= Days Cash on Hand from Short-Term Sources

Cash + Short-Term Investments + All Long-Term Investments

(Total Expenses – Non-Cash Expenditures)

÷ 365

= Days Cash on Hand from All Sources

Like the current ratio, a higher value is always preferred. The board may want to exclude restricted cash from this equation so as not to overstate the organization's ability to meet its basic operating needs.

Debt-to-Equity Ratio

Source: Balance sheet

The debt-to-equity ratio tells you the proportion of debt versus assets being used to support your organization. It tells you how deeply your organization is in debt and what percentage of your assets are tied up in liabilities.

Total Liabilities

Total Net Assets

A lower debt-to-equity ratio implies a more financially stable organization. Nonprofits with higher debt-to-equity ratios may be taking too much financial risk as debt must be repaid and the organization may not be able to make the payments.

Operating Margin Percentage

Source: Income Statement

Operating margin percentage is a useful ratio because it measures the organization's bottom line (before non-operating revenues) compared to its total revenues. The ratio allows you to quickly and rather accurately determine the extent of your organization's profitability on its core operations.

Excess of Support & Revenues Over Expenses
Total Support & Revenues

Higher values are preferable.

SAMPLE BALANCE SHEET AND INCOME STATEMENT

A key challenge to understanding financial statements is recognizing the wide diversity of nonprofit organizations and the multiplicity of audiences and clientele they serve. Because of this diversity, nonprofit financial statements differ in format and appearance from one organization to the next. The following examples represent a fictional nonprofit; they are meant to be an amalgamation of several types of nonprofits operating throughout the U.S. While these fictional statements may not be precisely like the statements used by your nonprofit, all the common and essential elements are shown to enable you to relate to your organization.

See Next Page



SAMPLE INCOME STATEMENT

Sample Statement of Activities

No restrictions on how and/or when the net assets are used Donor has placed restrictions on the use of the net assets that can be met over time or by purpose fulfilled

Donor has required gift to be held in perpetuity (not used); generates income that must be used according to donor's intent

ABC CHARITIES, INC.

Statement of Activites (Income Statement)

For the Years Ending December 31, 2015 & 2014 (in thousands)

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL 2015	TOTAL 2014	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
Public Support & Revenues						
Net Service Revenues	43,600	10,000		53,600	50,000	7.2%
Contributions	9,000		700	9,700	9,000	7.8%
Grants	3,400			3,400	3,200	6.3%
Total Support and Revenue	56,000	10,000	700	66,700	62,200	7.2%
Expenses						
Program Services	40,600	7,000		47,600	45,800	3.9%
-Management and General	10,190	3,000		13,190	12,000	9.9%
Fundraising	710			710	700	1.4%
Total Expenses	51,500	10,000		61,500	58,500	5.1%
Excess of Support & Revenue over Expenses	4,500	7	700	5,200	3,700	40.5%
Non-Operating Income (Expenses)						
Gain/(Loss) on investments	1,200	 •,		1,200	1,000	20.0%
Total Non-Operating Income	1,200		<u> </u>	1,200	1,000	20.0%
Excess of Support & Total Revenue over Expenses (Total margin)	5,700	- 10 m - 1 - 1 m - 10 m	700	6,400	4,700	36.2%
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	59,500	4,200	1,300	65,000	62,300	4.3%
Change in net unrealized gains & losses on investments	(1,000)		<u></u>)	(1,000)	(2,000)	-50.0%
Net Assets, End of Year	64,200	4,200	2,000	70,400	65,000	8.3%

Allows you to quickly determine the organization's profitability on its core operations; the higher the value -, the better.



Excess of Support + Revenue over Expenses

Total Support & Revenue

Changes in the fair market value of investments that the organization could sell

Commonly includes expenses directly related

to program delivery, such as salaries, supplies,

purchased services

Total cost of fundraising

efforts

Revenue/expenses not related to mission. such as income from investments

Expenditures related to oversight and administrative activities, such as record keeping and finances

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Sample - Statement of Activities

Similar to your bank accounts – shows how much money you have in a given period of time.

- 1. How much revenue the org generated
- 2. Renew from foundations, government, etc.
- 3. Income from things like interest
- 4. Income from earned sources
- 5. Funds "released" from temp restricted bucket because "restricted" activity occurred
- 6. Operating expenses for a given time
- 7. Costs directly related to fulfilling the nonprofits mission
- 8. Activities not directly related to the purpose or mission
- 9. Change in net assets also called Surplus/(Deficit)
- 10. Unrestricted asset change
- 11. Change in Temp Restricted assets
- 12. Total change in net (both restricted & unrestricted) assets

Year Ended December 31, 2021 (\$ in thousands)									
Operating Activity	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total					
Revenues, gains, and									
other support									
Support ²									
Foundations	113,000	58,000		171,000					
Government	57,000			57,000					
Corporations	49,000			49,000					
Individuals	248,000			248,000					
Total support	467,000	58,000		525,000					
Investment income ³	7,000			7,000					
Earned income (Fees,	484,000			484,000					
Dues, Other) ⁴									
Net assets released	749,000	-749,000							
from restriction ⁵									
Total revenues, gains,	1,707,000	-691,000		1,016,000					
and other support ¹									

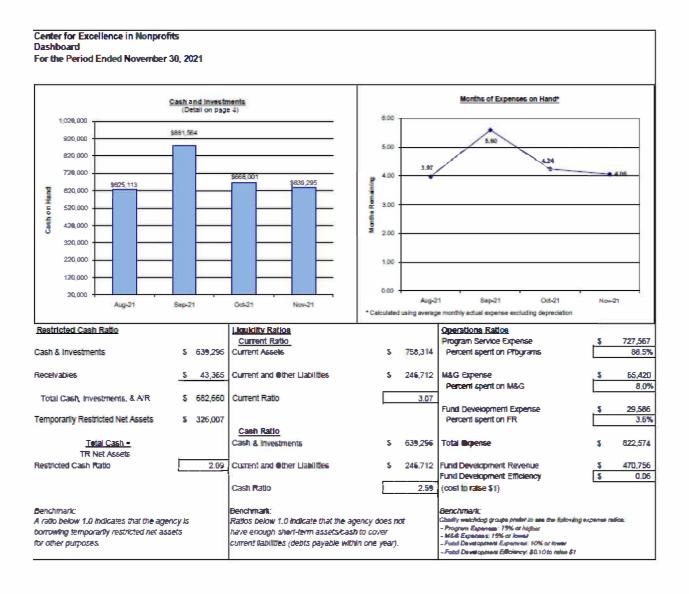
Operating Expenses ⁶	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Program services ⁷	1,004			1,004
Support services ⁸				
Administrative	209			209
Development	49			49
Total supporting services	258			258
Total Expenses	1,262			1,262
Change in Net Assets ⁹	445 ¹⁰	-691 ¹¹		246 ¹²

Center for Excellence in Nonprofits Statement of Activities - Combined Report For the Period Ended December 31, 2020

	Monthly Actual		Monthly Budget		Monthly /ariance	6 Mc	onths Y-T-D Actual	6 Month Bud		1000	onths Y-T-D /ariance
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:											
Public Support:		_									
Donations	26,37	5	-		26,375		55,440		-		55,440
Grants Total Public Support	26,37			8 0	26,375		21,450 76,890	0			21,450 76,890
Total Public Support	20,37	5	-		20,375		70,090		-		70,080
Other Revenue:											
Membership Dues	2,50	0	-		2,500		9,179		-		9,179
Program Revenue	38,55	5	-		38,555		127,985		-		127,985
Program Scholarship Discount	(6,86		-		(6,860)		(19,775)		-		(19,775)
Investment Income	3,06		-		3,065		5,098		-		5,098
In-kind Revenue	7,06		-	-	7,060		42,360		-		42,360
Total Revenue	44,32	0	-		44,320		164,847		-		164,847
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	25,84	2			25,842		111,379		-		111,379
T-1-1 D-1 11- D-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1	00.50				00.507		050 447				050 447
Total Public Support and Other Revenue	96,53	<u> </u>		r 11	96,537		353,117	-		-	353,117
Expenses:											
Program Services	85,81	5	-		(85,815)		421,867		-		(421,867)
Support Services:											
Administration	8,18		-		(8,188)		49,985		-		(49,985)
Fundraising	5,54		-		(5,547)		23,628		-		(23,628)
Total Support Services	13,73	4	-		(13,734)		73,613		-		(73,613)
Total Expenses	\$ 99,54	9 \$	-	\$	(99,549)	\$	495,479	\$		\$	(495,479)
Increase / (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	\$ (3,01	2) \$		\$	(3,012)	\$	(142,363)	\$	-	\$	(142,363)
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:											
Grants & Donations	\$ 140,00		-	\$	140,000	\$	165,000	\$	-	\$	165,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(25,84	2)	-	5 19 <u></u>	(25,842)		(111,379)	-		-	(111,379)
Increase / (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 114,15	8 \$	-	\$	114,158	\$	53,621	\$	-	\$	53,621
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS Y-T-D	\$ 111,14	6 \$	-	\$	111,146	\$	(88,742)	\$	-	\$	(88,742)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR							428,795				
NET AGGETO AT END OF DEDICE											
NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD						\$	340,053				



Sample - Dashboard



(Rev. January 2020)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
 Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047 2019

Open to Public Inspection

Α	For the 2	2019 calen	dar year, or tax	year beginn	ing 7/0	1	, 20	19, and endi	ng 6/	'30	,	2020
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			imilar amounts p							5,6	525.	
			to or for member									
S	15 Sa		er compensation							444,6	546.	528,463.
Expenses	16a Pro	ofessional	fundraising fees	(Part IX, co	olumn (A), l	ine 11e)						
кре	b To	tal fundrais	sing expenses (F	Part IX, colu	mn (D), line	e 25) ►		61,753.				
ú	17 Ott	her expens	ses (Part IX, colu	umn (A), line	es 11a-11d,	11f-24e)			i.i.	220,8	367.	237,609.
	18 To	tal expens	es. Add lines 13	-17 (must e	qual Part IX	(, column (/	A), line 25	j)		671,1	138.	766,072.
	19 Re	venue less	s expenses. Sub	tract line 18	from line 1	2		. man		-89,6	575.	370,000.
000									Beginn	ing of Curre	nt Year	End of Year
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 To		(Part X, line 16)							109,5		561,400.
A B	21 To	tal liabilitie	es (Part X, line 2	6)	marm	111111111				50,7	188.	132,606.
P. P.	22 Ne	l assets or	r fund balances.	Subtract lin	e 21 from I	ne 20	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			58,7	194.	428,794.
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Unde	er penalties	of perjury, de	eclare that I have example	mined this return	n, including acc	companying sch	nedules and s	statements, and t	o the best of	my knowledge	e and belie	ef, it is true, correct, and
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BAA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

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4 d Other program	services (Describe on Sch	nedule O.)	SEE SCHEI	OULE O				

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TEEA0102L 07/31/19

582,249.

259,076. including grants of

4 e Total program service expenses ►

BAA

Form **990** (2019)

43,851.)

) (Revenue \$

Sample – Statement of Financial Position

Similar to your bank accounts – shows how much money you have in a given period of time.

ABC Center Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2021									
Assets ¹									
Current Assets									
Cash and Equivalents ²	191,000								
Grants & Pledges Receivable ³	55,000								
Accounts Receivable	-								
Inventory	-								
Prepaid Expenses	41,000								
Other Current Assets	-								
Total Current Assets	287,000								
Long-Term Assets									
Long-Term Investments	-								
Deposits and Prepaid Rent	-								
Grants & Pledges Receivable	-								
Net Fixed Assets (P&E) ⁴	760,000								
Other Long-Term Assets	-								
Total Long-Term Assets	760,000								
Total Assets ⁵	1,047,000								

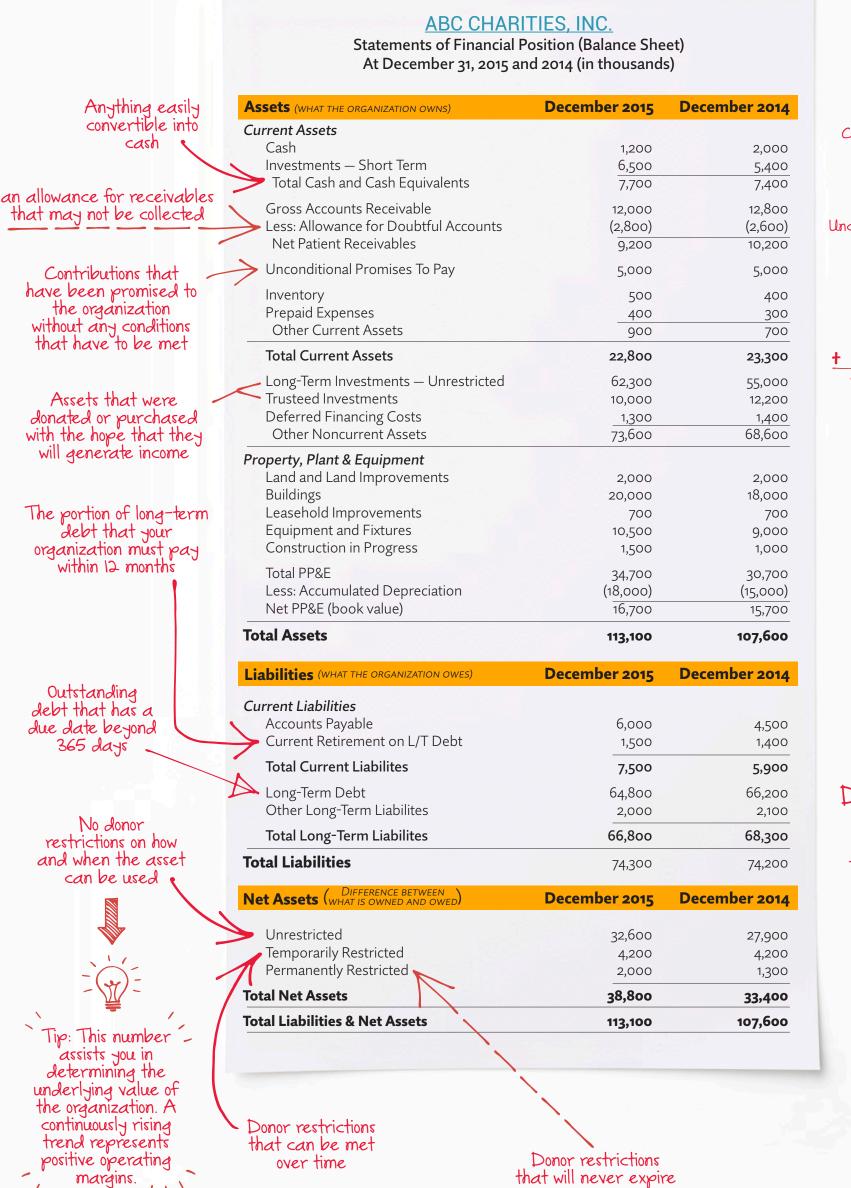
Liabilities ⁶							
Current Liabilities							
Accounts Payable	57,000						
Accrued Salaries & Benefits	-						
Other Current Liabilities	-						
Total Deferred Revenue	-						
Short-Term Debt	-						
Total Current Liabilities	57,000						
Long-Term Liabilities							
Long-Term Liabilities	-						
Long-Term Debt ⁷	114,000						
Other Long-Term Liabilities	-						
Total Long-Term Liabilities	114,000						
Total Liabilities ⁸	171,000						

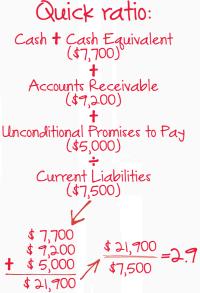
Net Assets ⁹							
Unrestricted							
Undesignated ¹⁰	11,000						
Unrestr. – Board Designated ¹¹	-						
Unrestr. – P&E ¹²	760,000						
Total Unrestr. Net Assets ¹³	771,000						
Temp. Restricted Net Assets ¹⁴	105,000						
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	-						
Total Net Assets ¹⁵	876,000						
Total Liabilities & Net Assets16	1,047,000						

- 1. All types of assets
- 2. Actual cash & things like bonds, money market mutual funds, and other short-term investments
- 3. Grants awarded that have not been received
- 4. Property and equipment
- 5. All assets combined
- 6. All types of liabilities
- 7. Loans
- 8. All liabilities combined
- 9. What the organization has or owns, free and clear of any liabilities
- 10. Undesignated net assets usually comprise cash, receivables, and investments available for operations
- 11. Unrestricted funds that have been
- 12. "Restricted" by your board of directors
- 13. Unrestricted property & equipment
- 14. Total of unrestricted net assets
- 15. Assets restricted for a certain purpose
- 16. Total of unrestricted & restricted net assets
- 17. Total net assets + total liabilities (876 + 171=1,047)

SAMPLE BALANCE SHEET

Financial Statements Explained











Case Study 1

Client Profile: A no-kill shelter and adoption agency for dogs with a mission is to alleviate the suffering of stray, abandoned, unwanted, and feral dogs in Anywhere County that offers:

- Low cost spay, neuter and microchipping
- Training on how to care for dogs

Presenting Challenge: Upon the recent death of the founder (and sole staff member), he left the organization a large bequest. The board is striving to be fiscally responsible. The agency was faced with finding new leadership, because the board does not have time to run the organization. 2018 - Last year with unpaid founder

- 2020 Last year with unpaid founder
- 2021 Hired first post-founder, paid ED (and some additional staff)
- 2022 What is the current status of the organization and its new leader?

			Year	
Statement of Activities		2020	2021	2022
Revenue				
	Contributions, gifts,	\$439,150	\$1,893,339	
	grants, and other			
	similar amounts			
	Program services		\$597	\$257,368
	revenue			
	Other revenue	\$21	\$858	\$2,972
	Total revenue	\$439,171	\$1,894,794	\$260,340
Expenses				
	Payroll	\$603	\$109,508	\$410,011
	Non-Payroll	\$330,038	\$282,911	\$526,458
	Total Expense	\$330,641	\$392,419	\$936,469
NET SURPLUS/	DEFICIT	\$108,530	\$1,502,375	-\$676,129



				Year	
Balance Sh	neet		2020	2021	2022
	Assets				
		Current	\$230,610	\$1,733,403	\$1,076,308
		Long-Term			
		Total Assets	\$230,610	\$1,733,403	\$1,076,308
	Liabilities				
		Current		\$418	\$24,910
		Long-Term			
		Total Liabilities	\$0	\$418	\$24,910
	Net Assets				
		Unrestricted net assets			
		Temporarily restricted			
		net assets			
		Permanently restricted			
		net assets			
		Total net assets or	\$230,610	\$1,732,985	\$1,051,398
		fund balances			
		Total liabilities and	\$230,610	\$1,733,403	\$1,076,308
		net assets/fund			
		balances			
		*mistake on 990			



Case Study 2

Client Profile: The Bay Area's leading provider of trusted individualized educational services for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders.

Mission: To help children and adults with autism or other developmental disabilities maximize their potential in a dignified, positive and learning.

Presenting Challenge: This organization is a great provider of services for children with autism spectrum disorders. They receive their funding from the state of CA for all their children's services under a fee for service contract. Recently the board has recognized a growing need for adult education services. However, this is not covered by the state. In addition, the organization rents a decommissioned school on a year to year basis and the district will not enter into a longer agreement. The organization is in constant fear having to move.

		Year	_
Statement of Activities		2020	2021
Revenue			
	Contributions, gifts, grants, and other similar amounts	\$335,268	\$463,976
	Program services revenue	\$5,316,917	\$5,729,626
	Other revenue	\$286,931	\$150,607
	Total revenue	\$5,939,116	\$6,344,209
Expenses	;		
	Payroll	\$3,496,416	\$3,554,060
	Non-Payroll	\$2,236,224	\$2,261,343
	Total Expense	\$5,732,640	\$5,815,403
NET SURI	PLUS/DEFICIT	\$206,476	\$528,806



		Year	2021
Balance Sheet		2020	
Asset	s		
	Current	\$4,178,254	\$4,908,392
	Long-Term		
	Total Assets	\$4,178,254	\$4,908,392
Liabil	ities		
	Current	\$339,689	\$313,270
	Long-Term		
	Total Liabilities	\$339,689	\$313,270
Net A	ssets		
	Unrestricted net assets	\$3,838,565	\$4,581,883
	Temporarily restricted net ass	ets	\$13,239
	Permanently restricted net as:	sets	
	Total net assets or fund balance	ces	
	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	\$3,838,565	\$4,595,122
	*mistake on 990	\$4,178,254	\$4,908,392



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