



How Nonprofits Can Simplify Month-End Close and Financial Reporting

LIVE WEBINAR

Agenda

1. Why Month-End Breaks Down
2. Common Mistakes to Fix
3. Donor Tracking & Restricted Funds
4. Better Board Reporting
5. AI Use Cases & Where to Start
6. Your Questions Answered Live

Which Part of Month-End Is Most Frustrating Right Now?

- Getting Accurate Numbers on Time
- Tracking Restricted Funds & Donor Activity
- Preparing Board-Ready Reports
- Reconciling Accounts & Cleaning Up Errors





Why Month-End Breaks Down in Nonprofit Organizations



Is Your Close Process Too Dependent on One Person?

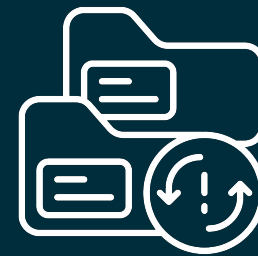
- There's a gap in internal financial fluency
- Potential bottleneck that can delay completion
- Lack of reporting standardization drives variability
- Reconciliations are not consistently formalized (and may be skipped in some cases)

Where the Friction Really Lies



Restricted Funds

Donor restrictions create layers of tracking that general accounting software wasn't designed to handle cleanly



Fragmented Systems

Donor databases, payroll platforms, and accounting software rarely sync – leaving staff to reconcile manually



Reporting Deadlines

Grant reports, board packets, and audit prep arrive on conflicting timelines with inconsistent data

4 Habits That Create Unnecessary Stress



**Manual Bill Pay
& Paper Checks**



**Donor Tracking
in a Silo**



**Disconnected
Systems**



**Skipping Bank
Reconciliations**

The Fastest Payoff: Fix One Thing First

Where to Start

Automating bill pay typically delivers the fastest visible return.

For organizations with donor data trapped in a separate CRM, connecting that system to your accounting platform is the single highest-leverage integration you can make.

And if reconciliations are being skipped? Start there. It's the lowest-cost, highest-impact habit to rebuild.

1) Automate bill pay - eliminates manual entry and speeds approval workflows

2) Connect donor and accounting systems - removes data silos

3) Start monthly bank reconciliations - catches errors before they compound

4) Integrate systems with API connections - reduces double entry across platforms

How Are You Handling Accounting & Reporting Today?

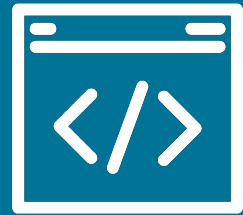
- Entirely In-House
- Mostly In-House
- Partial Outsourcing
- Mostly Outsourced





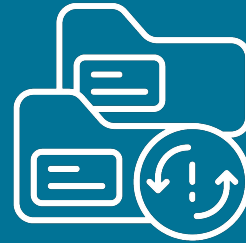
Donor Tracking, Restricted Funds, & Why Reporting Gets Messy

What Goes Wrong With Restricted Funds



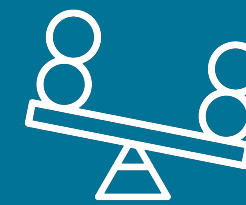
Miscoded Transactions

Revenue posted to the wrong fund makes grant reporting unreliable and triggers costly corrections at audit time



Out of Sync Records

When your CRM and general ledger tell different stories, staff waste hours reconciling instead of reporting.



Unspent Balances

Without clean tracking, it's easy to miss spending deadlines or unknowingly spend restricted dollars on the wrong program.



What Does Better Board Reporting Look Like?

Board members aren't asking for perfectly compliant statements. They need reports that are understandable, traceable, and repeatable – without burying the finance team every month.

The 3 Jobs of a Good Board Report



Clarity on Performance

Plain-language summaries alongside the numbers so board members can engage (not just receive) the financials



Highlight Risks & Issues

Surfaces variances, cash concerns, and problem areas early so the board can ask better questions before small issues become bigger ones.



Supports Decision Making

Gives context needed to make timely, informed decisions about priorities, trade offs, and next steps



Which Would Help Your Team Most in the Next 90 Days?

- Better Close Checklist
- System Integration
- Better Board Reporting
- Expert Monthly Review



3 Ways AI Can Help Today

AI in the Month-End Workflow



AP & Invoice Review

Tools like Copilot can flag duplicate invoices, unusual amounts, and missing approvals.



Board Meeting Prep

AI can scan your reports, flag budget exceptions, and draft plain-language summaries, turning a two-hour prep task into a 20-minute review.



Report Interpretation

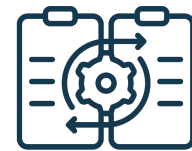
Use ChatGPT or Copilot to ask questions about your own data: "What's driving this variance?"

What to Fix First



Automate Bill Pay

Fastest time-to-value
– reduces manual work
and strengthens your
audit trail immediately



Clean Up Reconciliations

Low cost, high impact-
rebuilding this habit
stops small errors from
compounding



Tighten Donor Tracking

Prevents the most
common source of
reporting confusion
before it reaches your
board



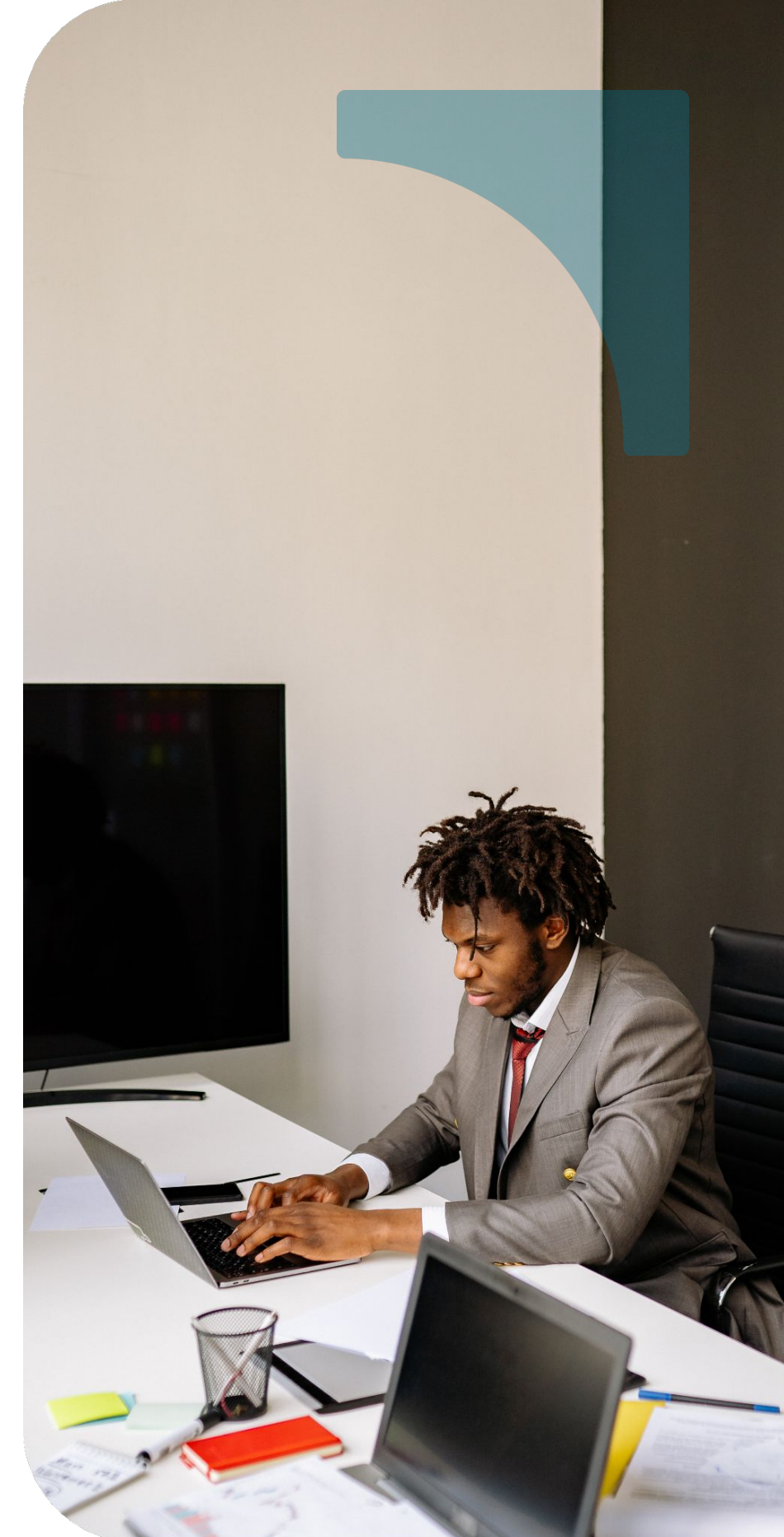
Add Outside Expert Review

Partial outsourcing of
monthly review can
deliver the confidence of
a full-time CFO at a
fraction of the cost

The Case for Outsourcing

What Outsourcing Typically Covers

- Monthly close review and sign-off by a qualified expert
- Board report preparation and financial narrative
- Grant reporting support and restricted fund review
- Audit preparation and funder compliance support
- Doesn't have to be all-or-nothing (transactional support)





THANK YOU!

NOT FOR PROFIT SYMPOSIUM

Building Stronger Foundations: Navigate Today's Challenges, Shape Tomorrow's Impact

Cleveland Museum of Natural History | 1 Wade Oval Dr, Cleveland, OH 44106

Thursday, June 4, 2026 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REGISTER NOW

