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*From the October 2005 Review of Not-for-Profit Accounting Software*In the software business since 1985, Araize offers the nonprofit sector an affordable accounting solution. FastFund contains a series of fully integrated modules, easy system navigation, excellent product support, and even a 90-day money-back guarantee. CARING for Children, Inc. (www.caring4children.org) is a private nonprofit organization that serves children who are abused, neglected, dependent, homeless, and/or who have behavior/emotional problems. The organization has 45 employees and a budget of $2 million. Patti Sharp is the organization's administrator and says the price and capabilities of the program were the main driving force behind their decision to go with FastFund. "You can set your chart of accounts up so you can get reports for funders in about any format you need."

The organization does all accounting functions (payables, receivables and general ledger) as well as payroll and fundraising. Sharp recommends that new and potential users get the entire package all at once: "I wish we had done that. We started with accounting and fundraising, but didn't purchase the receivables and the payroll parts." She also advises, "Get the person who has to prepare financial reports for funders to tell you the format in which he/she has to present those reports so you can get your accounting tiers set up correctly for your chart of accounts."

EASE OF USE/FLEXIBILITY — 5 Stars
After installing FastFund, which consists of three separate installations — Accounting, Fundraising and Payroll — you will be automatically directed to the FastFund Accounting Setup Wizard. The wizard will assist you in everything

from entering foundation/nonprofit information, to setting up cost centers,

displays user entry information at the top and GL distribution information below.

MODULES/SCALABILITY — 4.5 Stars

FastFund comes with a basic accounting module, which contains the GL function. Included with the GL are cash receipts, cash disbursements, budgets, check writing, bank reconciliations and a security feature. Since FastFund is a modular system, each module is purchased separately. Additional modules available include AP, AR, Cost Allocations, Payroll and Fund Raising. Data can be easily exported to third-party accounting software in addition to financial or word processing software. FastFund will run in either a single-user or multi-user environment. Networks supported include Novell 3.12 or higher and Windows NT, 95, 98, 2000 or XP peer-to-peer networks.

FEATURES/FUNCTIONALITY — 4.5 Stars

FastFund's chart of accounts wizard guides you through the sometimes-tedious chore of setting up your account numbers. FastFund's 36-digit account number capability lets you set up accounts to reflect your needs. All digits need to be numerical; FastFund does not utilize alpha characters. The minimum account number format that can be used is nine digits. Each fund has its own financial information available, including its own fiscal year-end closing. All functions in FastFund comply with FASB-116 and FASB-117 regulations. The AP module allows you to enter an unlimited number of payable vendors, each with its own sub-ledger. You can make full or partial payments, distribute expenses to multiple cost centers and run 1099s at year end. The Cost Allocations module lets you employ two methods to allocate transactions: Point of Entry and After the Fact.

Payroll allows you to allocate employee wages to several cost centers, as well. FastFund also supports employee direct deposit and has a multi-level security

system. The Fund Raising module is terrific, providing you with easy access

to or delete your selections at any time. Other reports available include cash receipts and disbursement journals, general journal entries, and budget data and comparison reports. The custom report generator lets you combine cost centers and sub-accounts to create customized reports. If more complex reports are needed, you can export data from FastFund to any third-party report writing software.

SUPPORT/HELP — 4.5 Stars

All new users will receive one year of free telephone support. Support fees are based on the number of modules you currently have. Support for one module will run $200; two modules will run $300; three modules will be $400; and four or more modules will cost $500. Telephone support includes technical problem solving, fixing data problems and answering general questions. FastFund also contains a good Help function, which will answer many questions. Training is available at an additional cost.

Sharp says her experience with support has been good. "Joe Scarano [the company's president] is always available." She admits that she was initially worried that he would be tough to reach, "but he always gets back to me quickly — usually within one hour — and he's always pleasant, even when I've been frustrated and 'not so pleasant.'"

RELATIVE VALUE — 5 Stars

With the FastFund basic accounting module running $395, and additional modules ranging
in price from $200 to $595, FastFund is an affordable option for those looking to stay within a budget but not wishing to sacrifice capability for affordability. With FastFund, you can have both.

2005 Overall Rating — 4.5 Stars

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