Customer Success Story
Room to Read

Learn how Room to Read improved their financial efficiency by 80% and positively impacted the lives of more than 100,000 children worldwide as a result.

Room to Read®

Industry: Non-Profit Organization, Education
Client Since: 2016
Solutions: Nexonia Expenses and Nexonia Timesheets
Integrations: Sage Intacct

Founded in 2000, Room to Read is a global organization transforming the lives of millions of children in low-income communities by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education.

When you have an audacious mission to improve access to quality education for over 20 million underserved children worldwide, you need processes that hold up everywhere. Room to Read knew they could do more to maximize their impact with an integrated solution.

Room to Read is educating the world's most vulnerable children with an increasing scale and level of impact. As the non-profit expanded, they became painfully aware that a modern expense and time tracking solution was needed to support this growth. "Our manual, Excel-based process was simply not scalable. We were always behind schedule on our close dates and had to constantly chase people for receipts," said Shari Freedman, CFO at Room to Read. Leading a small finance team, Freedman knew they had to find a way to optimize employees' time to focus on more impactful work. She knew they needed a more integrated, automated system.

> **Our manual, Excel-based process was simply not scalable. We were always behind schedule on our close dates and had to constantly chase people for receipts.**

THE CHALLENGE

Complex, high-growth non-profit with global operations

Manual expense process, and no time tracking system

Insufficient reporting and lack of actionable data

Inefficient, weeks-long close process

THE SOLUTION

Unified expense, time tracking, and accounting solutions

Seamless integration with Intacct for near-instant data sync

Custom reporting, configurable for unique requirements

Automated rules and approval workflows

User-friendly, mobile solution with digital receipt capture

THE RESULTS

80%+ faster month-end close, going from weeks to days

Automation expedites reimbursement time by seven days

Ability to comply with larger, diverse, multi-year custom awards

Mobile capabilities support remote work and global scalability

Happier employees can add more value

The most crucial part of this strategy relied on finding an expense and time tracking solution that could easily integrate with their finance system, Sage Intacct. Room to Read knew that a bi-directional sync would provide their team with near real-time visibility into meaningful data imperative to the non-profit's success. "We had complex reporting requirements and wanted the ability to share spend and performance data directly with our program donors. This was fundamental to creating a sense of trust and transparency, as well as securing future funding."

Room to Read selected Nexonia because of its strong reputation with the Intacct community, its economic value, its custom reporting features, and its user-friendly

mobile capabilities. Users were eager to move away from manual processes and embraced Nexonia Timesheets and Nexonia Expenses. "There's always a degree of change management with new processes, but we'd already established credibility with our Intacct implementation, so users were very receptive. This made for a smooth adoption," said Freedman.

> ## We had complex reporting requirements and wanted the ability to share spend and performance data directly with our program donors.

Users find the solution intuitive and appreciate its mobile capabilities like digital receipt capture and on-the-go time and expense submission. These features save users time and let them focus on more productive work, rather than worrying about lost receipts and clunky spreadsheets. For the finance team, auditing and approvals can also be done from anywhere. This helps keep the organization moving toward its goals without being limited by location.

Finance was impressed with how everything effortlessly synced with Intacct to streamline the entire expense

THE SAGE INTACCT INTEGRATION

Nexonia's award-winning integration with Intacct allows data to effortlessly flow between platforms. Our solutions serve as the user-friendly entry system, a simple and intuitive tool that everyone can easily use. Intacct remains private, protected, and the single source of truth for data.

"The integration between Nexonia and Intacct is fantastic. It has streamlined our entire reimbursement and AP process so we can close in days, not weeks. This frees up a significant amount of time for more impactful projects."

Shari Freedman
CFO
Room to Read

LEARN MORE

To learn how Nexonia can revolutionize how you manage expenses, payables, and time tracking, visit **nexonia.com**

only takes a few days, so we can easily close on time each month without the added stress," said Freedman. Efficiency gains empower the finance team to focus on more analytical work to support Room to Read's objectives. "Having more time for more meaningful work has been very satisfying," said Freedman. It has also improved morale companywide and enabled finance to operate at an elevated level within the organization. Additionally, as Room to Read grows, the solution scales with them, allowing finance to meet increased demand without adding headcount.

number of children being impacted, and tie that back to specific donor investments." Improved donor compliance through time tracking has directly impacted Room to Read's ability to secure larger, multi-year awards, and more diverse funding. "Donors want to see the impact of their investments, and now we're able to share this level of detail with just a few clicks."

Since migrating to an integrated, cloud-based strategy across their technology stack, Freedman estimates that Room to Read has realized enough cost and time savings to have impacted 100,000 children. "Modern solutions like Nexonia help support our mission and enable us to deliver educational programs to the world's most vulnerable communities."

reimbursement process. "The integration between systems works beautifully, and gives us so much time back," said Freedman. With over fifty bank accounts in various countries and reimbursements in nineteen local currencies, manually processing and coding expenses was cumbersome. Nexonia automates and expedites the entire process with custom rules, approval workflows, and integrations with the general ledger, so users get reimbursed seven days faster.

Nexonia helped simplify the audit process and reduced the time to close by more than 80%. "With our manual system, it required several weeks of intense auditing and late nights to resolve our expense reporting. With Nexonia and Sage Intacct, the process

> **Custom reporting allows us to easily track the outcome of our programs in terms of the number of children being impacted, and tie that back to specific donor investments.**

Through the Intacct integration, Room to Read can easily track time across both internal and donor-funded projects with detailed reports to show the impact. Freedman explicitly mentions this has been vital to the non-profit's success: "Custom reporting allows us to easily track the outcome of our programs in terms of the

Integration with Sage Intacct

As part of its digital transformation, Room to Read needed an expense and time tracking solution that could easily integrate with Intacct to deliver efficiency gains and provide robust data insights.

Mobile Capabilities

Nexonia makes work easier by enabling mobile expense and time management, so Room to Read can continue to improve lives from anywhere.

Robust Reporting and Analytics

The integration with Intacct allows Room to Read to generate custom reports highlighting program performance and investment. Data informs strategic forecasting and helps Room to Read secure more consistent donor awards.

Digital Receipt Capture

Room to Read doesn't have to worry about lost receipts or manual audits. Nexonia's digital receipt capture and built-in compliance rules streamline the process for quicker submission and approval.

ABOUT NEXONIA, PART OF EMBURSE

Emburse, Nexonia's parent organization, is a global leader in expense management and AP automation solutions, trusted by more than 4.5 million users in over 120 countries.

Nexonia is a leading provider of web- and mobile-based financial management solutions for expense, time, travel, and more. Our simple-to-use applications fully integrate with a variety of business systems and are designed to enhance operational efficiency. We're trusted by organizations including CrossFit, Hamamatsu Corporation, and Lufthansa Systems.

Visit **emburse.com** or **nexonia.com** for more information.