you submit a second Form 8868. Thus, you can therefore legitimately file Form 990 eleven months after your fiscal year ends.

If your gross receipts are less than $25,000 you may feel relieved that you are not required to file this long form return. Consider voluntarily filing anyway, for these reasons:

- Although at first glance the form may look intimidating, it is lengthy, but otherwise not complicated. If you were able to file your Form 1023, you'll certainly be able to handle the 990, especially if you can use the 990EZ. Download the online fillable PDF version, and the instructions in PDF, and you should easily be able to complete your return in an evening.

- Filling out the form each year is a good way to create records for your internal use that can be helpful to newly elected or appointed officers and board members, and anyone else with a serious interest in your organization.

- Submitting the return on a regular basis will ensure that you meet the requirement of keeping the IRS advised of changes in your organization's address, activities or structure, and will also ensure that you are not removed from their list of qualified charities (IRS Publication 78).

- Assuming you received an advance ruling in response to your Form 1023 *Application for Recognition of Exemption,* filling out the 990 each year will provide you with all the information you will eventually need to complete the *Advance Ruling Follow-Up* when your advance ruling period ends.

- Filing the return establishes a start date for the IRS's three year statute of limitations with respect to potential audits. There is otherwise no limit.

- Submitting 990's is simply good business practice. The availability of a 990 on your organization, even when not required, creates a positive image of a well-managed organization with a professional board.

For the organization example used as a basis for this book, no return would actually be required. However, as an exercise and illustration, the 990EZ was completed, and is available on the *SfS* website for your inspection and use as a guide.