



Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2016

The mission of Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement is to provide alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read.

The Year in Review

2016 marked the beginning of our second half-century of work providing braille and audio materials locally and throughout the United States. With our new sound studio, ABLE was able to meet the exacting standards of the National Library Service when recording books. Twenty-seven books recorded at ABLE were uploaded to the Library of Congress website, Braille Audio and Reading Download (BARD), making the books available to nearly 550,000 blind and physically handicapped patrons nationwide. By the end of the year, over 2,600 people had accessed these books. This relationship with the National Library Service and the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library expands our reach exponentially throughout the nation.

We experienced an outpouring of volunteers who wanted to record books in the ABLE Sound Center in 2016. By the end of the year, 15 individuals were coming in weekly as read-aloud, volunteer narrators while staff members edited the books they were reading on the spot. This will greatly increase production of audio books for both children and adults, and will allow us to maximize the use of the sound studio.

ABLE was effective in meeting the growing demand for quick-turnaround assignments for school-age children. In 2016 we produced 12,518 pages of brailled materials for students; over 75% were quick-turnaround requests.

We also developed many more tactiles—raised line drawings that are essential to understanding mathematical graphs, molecular structures, and other technical depictions that are difficult, if not impossible, to explain in words alone. Creating tactiles is time-consuming and challenging, yet our team continues to produce more tactiles each year. In 2016 we created 1,626 pages of tactile diagrams—a 33% increase over the previous year.

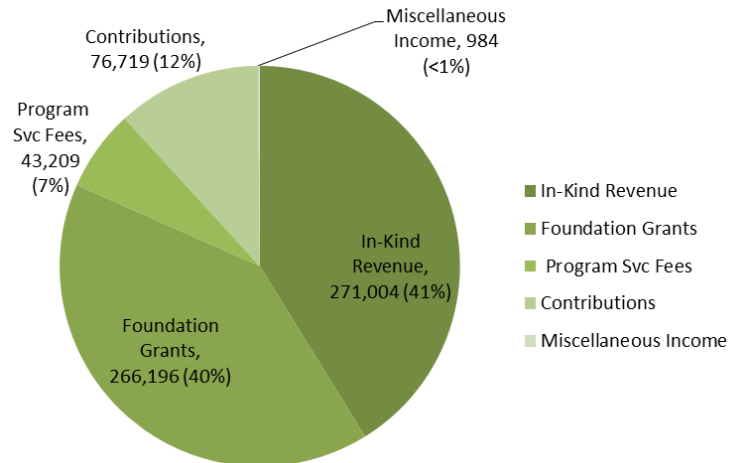
The importance of these efforts to provide blind students with materials at the same time as their sighted peers can best be understood in the words of Xin Ju Hippe, a freshman at Rufus King High School: “ABLE saved me! Diagrams of molecular structures, the Pythagorean theorem, the digestive tract of a worm, tests and worksheets in Spanish—these are just a few of the things ABLE prepares for me. It means so much to me, because I know what it feels like not to have what I need. ABLE has supported me so much.”

Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

AUDITED FINANCIALS 2016

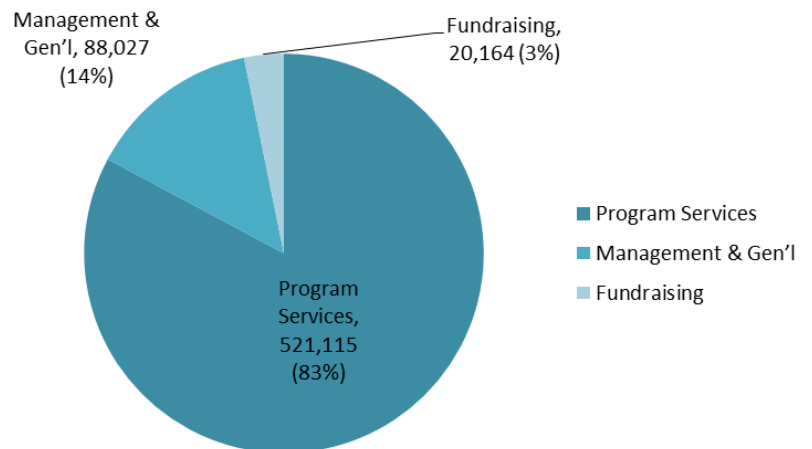
Support & Revenue

Total Support & Revenue	\$ 658,112
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 271,004
Foundation Grants	\$ 266,196
Program Svc Fees	\$ 43,209
Contributions	\$ 76,719
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 984



Expenses

Total Expenses	\$ 629,306
Program Services	\$ 521,115
Management & Gen'l	\$ 88,027
Fundraising	\$ 20,164



Staff

Cheryl Orgas
Executive Director

Kathleen Bruening Lead Braille Transcriber	Karen Riendeau Office Manager
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Claire Egan Braille Coordinator	Richard Robbins Audio & Network Specialist
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Andrew Jambura Audio Coordinator	Matthew Scholtes Program & Production Manager
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Sean Paulson
Tactile Assistant

Board of Directors

Harold Mester, President
Don Natzke, Vice President

Diana Pine, Secretary
Robert Watson, Treasurer

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Thomas Gauthier
Michelle Gran

Cindy Kaczmarowski
Dawn Koceja

Fredrick Lynk
Dr. Karen Petric

Erica Reib
Linda Vincent, Ex Officio