



Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2017

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

The Year in Review

2017 was a pivotal year for ABLE, a year in which ABLE made significant strides in building our capacity as an organization and positioning ourselves for future growth. The list that follows is just *part* of what we were able to accomplish:

The ABLE Board of Directors completed a three-year strategic plan with priorities that include promoting our services and expertise not only locally and in Wisconsin, but also nationwide.

ABLE's website was thoroughly updated. Our new website is engaging, informative, attractive, easy to navigate, and easy to maintain. We believe it will be an effective tool in building capacity with donors, volunteers, and recipients alike.

ABLE invested in new embossers for both braille and tactiles. As we stated in last year's annual report, our braille embossers were experiencing ever-increasing breakdowns. Our most recent purchase is an industrial-sized embosser, which produces materials eight times as fast as our previous machine. This new embosser is essential because of the growth we anticipate in our production of brailled materials.

Along with these major projects, we continued to meet growing demands in all three of our production areas: braille, tactile (raised line) diagrams, and audio books:

In partnership with the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and the National Library Service, ABLE's volunteer readers are now producing a wide variety of books for both children and adults with an emphasis on Wisconsin authors. In 2017, ABLE completed recordings of 38 books now available through the National Library Service; over 20 additional books are currently in process. Six new volunteer readers and one reviewer joined the audio department in 2017.

In the braille program, we continue to produce braille materials for individuals at every stage of life. Our signature service, however, is our work for blind students, keeping them in step with their sighted peers through the production of immediate turn-around assignments in math, science, economics, foreign languages, and reading. We produced 12,273 pages of brailled materials for school-age children in 2017. Eight new volunteers joined the braille department, including both brailleists and tactile artists.

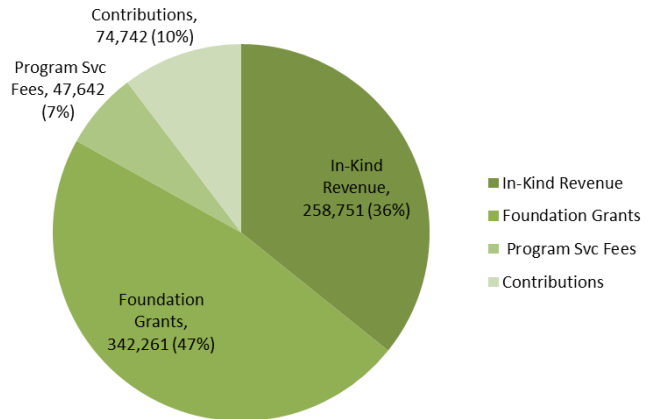
Our tactile services truly bring illustrations to blind people in a clear and understandable way. Whether it be the butterfly book for the Milwaukee Public Museum, a map of the Urban Ecology's east side location or a diagram of the bone structure of a frog or rabbit, these diagrams significantly impact the learning capacity of blind people.

Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

AUDITED FINANCIALS 2017

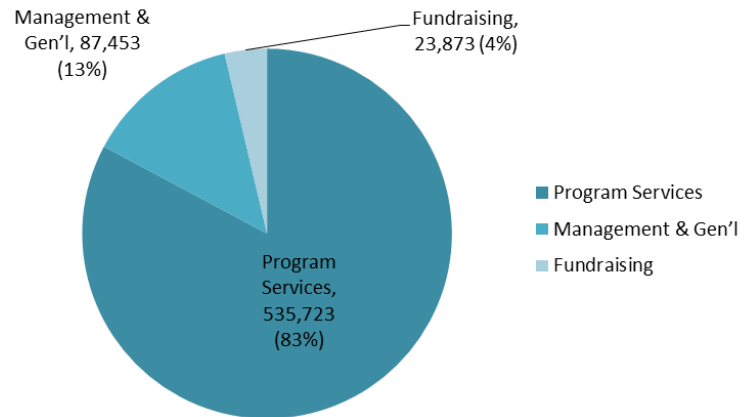
Support & Revenue

Total Support & Revenue	\$ 723,396
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 258,751
Foundation Grants	\$ 342,261
Program Svc Fees	\$ 47,642
Contributions	\$ 74,742



Expenses

Total Expenses	\$ 647,049
Program Services	\$ 535,723
Management & Gen'l	\$ 87,453
Fundraising	\$ 23,873



Staff

Cheryl Orgas
Executive Director

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

Board of Directors

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Don Natzke, Vice President
Diana Pine, Secretary
Robert Watson, Treasurer
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Dawn Koceja
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