



Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2021

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

The Year in Review

2021 was an extraordinary year for ABLE as we continued to adapt to the changed environment caused by COVID-19. With a return to in-person classes in most schools this fall, ABLE experienced an influx of both students and assignments, including many orders for tactiles and complex math transcriptions. While continuing our partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools, we also began working with five new school districts. ABLE produced a total of 13,095 pages of braille learning materials for students, which included 1,469 tactile diagrams. This represents a 46% increase over our 2020 production numbers! Each page produced signifies another opportunity for blind students to have a level playing field with their sighted peers.

This year's Braille Games was virtual, allowing for participation of children throughout Wisconsin. The theme, based on the book *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*, allowed students to practice both their braille and tactile skills as they explored a world map and "collected" recipe ingredients from around the world. Each child received a backpack with a copy of the book, cinnamon sticks, a treat to eat, and shakers to use as instruments for a song we sang together virtually. We so enjoy and appreciate our collaboration with the Milwaukee Public Museum, Vision Forward, the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and Beyond Vision to put on this annual event.

ABLE produced a total of 45 new audio books in 2021, focusing on Wisconsin authors. Each new book was then added to the collection of books we have recorded and is accessible on an ongoing basis through the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and the National Library Service. We were excited to learn that audiobooks recorded in our studio circulated 33,501 times from 2016 through 2021, including over 11,000 times in 2021 alone!

Early in 2021 we carried out a special initiative to produce and distribute, at no cost to families, brailled copies of a book about COVID-19 written for children. *Our Bodies Stay Home, Our Imaginations Run Free* by Wisconsin author Lora L. Hyler teaches children how to do their part in the fight against COVID-19, and also reassures them that they can still find joy in nature and in creativity. With each braille book given to a blind child, we also provided the family with a print copy so that parents or siblings could follow along and read together.

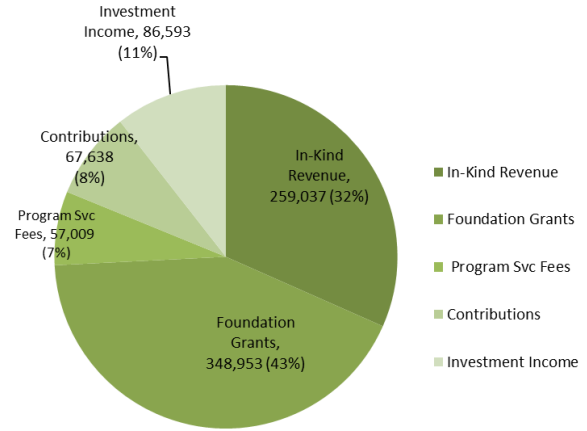
In addition to serving organizations, ABLE continues to meet individual needs for braille and audio, transcribing materials such as family trees, a hymn book, and *Slave Narratives of the Underground Railroad*. We are one of the few organizations in the U.S. that continues to respond to these individual requests.

Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

AUDITED FINANCIALS 2021

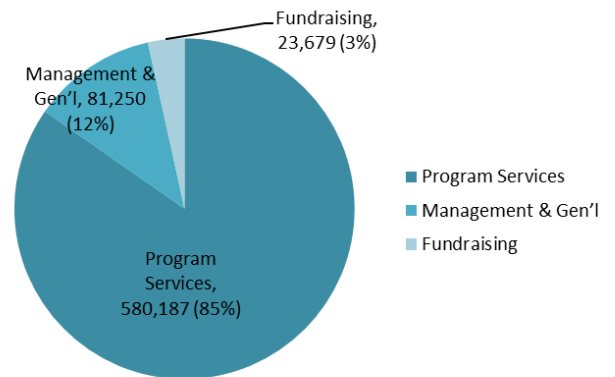
Support & Revenue

Total Support & Revenue	\$ 819,230
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 259,037
Foundation Grants	\$ 348,953
Program Service Fees	\$ 57,009
Contributions	\$ 67,638
Investment Income	\$ 86,593



Expenses

Total Expenses	\$ 685,116
Program Services	\$ 580,187
Management & Gen'l	\$ 81,250
Fundraising	\$ 23,679



Staff

Cheryl Orgas
Executive Director

Shawn Brimley Braille Assistant	Sean Paulson Tactile Assistant
Kathleen Bruening Braille Specialist	Richard Robbins Network Administrator
Karen Duerr Office Manager	Matthew Scholtes Tactile & Production Manager
Claire Egan Braille Manager	Dylan Shanahan Audio Specialist

Meghan Swanson
Braille Production Manager

Board of Directors

Michelle Gran, President
Erica Reib, Vice President
Diana Pine, Secretary
Robert Watson, Treasurer

Robin Brisco
Carlos Garcia
Sarah Heesen
Elliott King
Dawn Kocuja
Dale Kuehn
Brian Mason
Don Natzke
Zarina Mohd Shah, Ex Officio

**Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.
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Honors and Memorials

In Memory of Tom Gauthier

Richard & Roanne Barnes
Amanda Cose
Michelle Gran
Richard & Diana Pine

In Memory of Margie Mazzarello

Marilyn Harmon

In Memory of Lorraine Orgas

Roberta Whiteside

**In Memory of S. Melmarie Stoll, Who
Worked for the Blind for 45 Years**

Sandra Adams
Sr. Mary John Ann Zettelmaier

**In Memory of My Mom Barbara, Who
Transcribed Many, Many Books
into Braille in N.J.**

Doris & Ed Heiser

In Honor of ABLE Staff & Volunteers

Kristina Paris

In Honor of All Those Working for ABLE

Vidya Girish

In Honor of Courageous Students

Gary Kendziorski

In Honor of Jan Knowles

John Knowles

In Honor of Bennett Lehman

Jane Anderson
Michael & Luann Berns

**In Honor of Mickey Lundgren, for Many
Years of Wednesdays as RN Monitor**

Janet Goldsmith

In Honor of Leann & Harold Mester

Physicians Realty Trust

In Honor of Merete Mohs

Curt and Lois Mohs
Janet Mohs

In Honor of Cheryl Orgas

Kathryn Lorrigan
Lenore Tesch
Sue Wood

In Honor of Bill Meeker & Cheryl Orgas

Gary & Helen Brashear
Chris Meeker

In Honor of Edna & Kenneth Proeber

Cynthia Proeber

To Celebrate the Service of Kathy Bruening

Constance Sleger

Special Donations

**Donations through the Greater Milwaukee
Foundation**

Anthony and Andrea Bryant Family Fund
Elm II
Catherine and Walter Lindsay Foundation Fund
Spirit Gifts-SMS Fund
Sunrise Foundation Fund

**Donations through United Way of Greater
Milwaukee**

Wendy Huot
Dan Jambura
Ted Kellner
Tracy Thomas

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\$10,000 and up

Anonymous
Bader Philanthropies
Charles E. Benidt Foundation Inc.
The Otto Bremer Trust
Anthony and Andrea Bryant Family Fund
Tom Gauthier (deceased)
Industries for the Blind Inc.
Catherine and Walter Lindsay
Foundation Fund
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation Inc.
Melitta S. Pick Charitable Trust
Francie Luke Silverman Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anon Charitable Trust
Gene & Lori Batchelder
Alvin and Marion Birnschein Foundation Inc.
Catholic Community Foundation
Chase Family Foundation
ConocoPhillips Company
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
Green Bay Packers Foundation
B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation
Jerome and Dorothy Holz Family Foundation
Ladish Co. Foundation
Little Rapids Corporation (Egan Family
Foundation)
A.O. Smith Foundation Inc.
Stackner Family Foundation
Gregory C. Van Wie Charitable Fund

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous Donors
Badger Meter Foundation
The Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation
Cornerstone Foundation of
Northeastern Wisconsin
Demmer Charitable Trust
Terrence & Maura Eggert
Elm II

\$1,000 - \$4,999 cont'd.

Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation
William & Sandy Heitz Family Foundation
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation
Dorothy Inbusch Foundation Inc.
North Shore Congregational Church
Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust
The L.E. Phillips Family Foundation, Inc.
PPC Foundation (PieperPower Foundation)
The Presto Foundation
Saint John's Communities' Visually Impaired
Endowment Fund
Katherine Schneider
E.C. Styberg Foundation Inc.
Sunrise Foundation Fund
WE Energies Foundation
Youth Foundation - Greater Milwaukee
Association of REALTORS®

\$500 - \$999

Robert Balderson
The Albert J. and Flora H. Ellinger
Foundation Inc.
Frank & Susan Gedelman
Doris & Ed Heiser
IBM
Dan Jambura
Gina Johnson
Kelben Foundation, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Ted D. Kellner
Elliott King
Cheryl Orgas & Bill Meeker
Diana & Rich Pine
Physicians Realty Trust
Mark & Joan Schneider
Larry & Sue Sebranek
Spirit Gifts-SMS Fund
Robert Watson
Roberta Whiteside

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\$100 - \$499

Sandra Adams
Janice Beaton
Michael & Luann Berns
Timothy Bouquet
Gary & Helen Brashear
Sue Bronson
Sandra Christensen
Mary & James Connelly
Amanda Cose
Constance Crooks
Lois Davis
Delta Gamma Alumni Milwaukee Chapter
Cliona Draper
Richard & Mary Fanyo
Joanne Gerszewski
Beth Giacobassi
Vidya Girish
Richard Goessner
Janet Goldsmith
Michelle Gran
Beatrice Hahn
Marilyn Harmon
Sarah Heesen
Andrew & Paula Holman
Wendy Huot
Lora Hyler
Susan & Gaylen Kapperman
Gary Kendziorski
John Knowles
Herbert H. Kohl Charities Inc.
Andrew Lechtenberg & Lydia Cooley
Holly Loveland
Brian Mason
Cheri McGrath
Chris Meeker
Margaret Meeker & Jeff Fletcher
Kevin Meyers
Zarina Mohd Shah
James & Aline Mohr
Janet Mohs

\$100 - \$499 cont'd.

Don Natzke
Barbara Nevers
Kristina Paris
Kenneth Payne
Randall & Janet Peterson
James & Karen Petric
Cynthia Proeber
John Raymond
Erica Reib
James Rocheleau
Sandra Rowley
Erna Schatzman
Constance Sleger
Minna Smith
Tracy Thomas
Linda Vincent & Alberto Herrera, Jr.
Jean Wagemann
Heather West
Sue Wood
Don & Marian Yoder
Sr. Mary John Ann Zettelmaier
Janet Zoltan

Up to \$99

Kim Alwan
Jane Anderson
Richard & Roanne Barnes
Mike Bollig
Andrew Catanzaro
Terrence & Leslie Cooley
Jerry & Alice Davis
Kris & Rick Drollinger
Jennifer Duhaime
Jeanne Durnford
Cheryl Esquilin
Muriel Fallon
William Fortier
Janet Sue Fox
Erin Frederick
William Graczyk

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Up to \$99 cont'd.

Joyce F. Guinn

Mariah Hall Billsback

Allan & Sandra Heikkinen

Eleanore Hoehn

John & Sue Kaminsky

Marjorie La Due

Dan & Helen Lococo

Kathryn Lorrigan

Bonita Mohrhusen

Curt and Lois Mohs

Randee Napp

Sam Otto

Elizabeth Price

Douglas Ranger

Gregory Renz

Della Rose

Lillian Rostagno

Jean Salzer

Lenore Tesch

Patricia Vastalo

**Thank You to Those Who Have Given
through Employee Matching Gift
Programs**

ConocoPhillips Company

IBM