



Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2022

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

The Year in Review

2022 was a year in which ABLE continued to adapt to the “new normal” brought about by the pandemic, while also expanding our services and beginning to engage in a strategic planning process to more fully imagine our future over the next five years.

Our audio program continued to produce books for both children and adults, focusing on Wisconsin authors. This past year we strengthened our pool of audio volunteers, adding diversity to the voices narrating our books. A new process for recruiting, screening and onboarding volunteer narrators has increased the skill level of our volunteers and has led to improved efficiencies in book production. With new volunteers on board, we increased the quantity and further enhanced the quality of the audiobooks that ABLE produces. As a result, we reached our annual production goal of 50 audiobooks by mid-August of 2022, and by year’s end we had produced 70 audiobooks—a new record for us!

In addition to recording books, ABLE’s audio program produced a diverse range of additional materials in audio formats. Examples include *Milwaukee Magazine*; schedules and general information for Irish Fest, Summerfest, and the Wisconsin State Fair; catalogs and newsletters; and individually-requested books.

ABLE’s signature service is providing braille learning materials for blind students within the Milwaukee Public Schools and other Wisconsin school districts. Our goal, as always, was to ensure that blind students had their learning materials at the same time as their sighted peers. In 2022 we produced 16,546 pages of braille learning materials, including 2,540 tactile diagrams—raised line drawings that are essential to understanding maps, graphs and other technical depictions, especially those used in STEM classes. Most of these materials were produced on a quick-turnaround basis in response to teachers’ requests for up-to-the-minute materials. Each page produced signified another opportunity for blind students to have a level playing field with their sighted peers.

Positive feedback about our tactiles continued to propel our efforts to expand both production and marketing of our tactile materials, which have received national attention for their accuracy and usefulness to blind people.

Students, however, were not the only ones who benefited from ABLE’s braille transcription services. We also produced 9,319 pages of braille materials for adults, ranging from symphony program booklets to ballots for upcoming elections to individual book requests.

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Statement of Activities 2022

Support & Revenue		Expenses	
Foundation Grants	\$ 354,353	Program Services	\$ 669,056
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 333,983	Management & Gen'l	\$ 93,759
Program Service Fees	\$ 71,168	Fundraising	\$ 24,972
Contributions	\$ 54,594	Total Expenses	\$ 787,787
Investment Income	\$ (43,130)		
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 770,968		

Board of Directors

Michelle Gran, President
Erica Reib, Vice President
Brian Mason, Secretary
Robert Watson, Treasurer
Carlos Garcia
Sarah Heesen

Kathy Kerrigan
Elliott King
Dawn Koceja
Dale Kuehn
Zarina Mohd Shah, Ex Officio

Staff

Cheryl Orgas
Executive Director

Shawn Brimley
Braille Assistant

Karen Duerr
Office Manager

Claire Egan
Braille Manager

Andrew Jambura
Audio Manager through 1/13/2022

Sean Paulson
Tactile Assistant

Janet Kiekhofer
Braille Production Specialist

Matthew Scholtes
Tactile & Production Manager

Dylan Shanahan
Audio Manager & Tactile Assistant

Stephen Strupp
Audio Assistant

Meghan Swanson
Braille Production Manager

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Honors and Memorials

In Memory of Arthur Bleksley

Margit Schatzman & Stephen Bleksley

In Memory of Ken Caracci

Liz Worrell

In Memory of Kathryn Ferguson

Anonymous

In Memory of Marge La Due

Nicholas & Susan Bridge

In Memory of Susan Marie Love

Corliss Rice

In Memory of S. Melmarie Stoll

Sandra Adams

In Memory of Ed Wagner

Gary & Helen Brashear

Mary-Kay & Keith Hebl

Dale & Judy Kuehn

Linda Wagner

Robert Watson

**In Memory of my deceased mother Barbara
who wrote many braille books for others!**

In Honor of Cheryl

Doris & Ed Heiser

**In Memory of Beth Baden and
in honor of Becky Beteag**

Valerie Beteag

**In Memory of my sister. In Honor of Mrs.
Jean Atkinson - one of original directors of
this organization then called VSVH**

Elizabeth Rheingans

**In Memory of Patricia Payne, in Honor of
Payne and Thorson Fanick**

Kenneth Payne

**In Honor of the Amazing ABLE Volunteers
& Staff**

Anonymous

Kristina Paris

**In Honor of a Great Organization Helping
Great People**

Gary Kendziorski

In Honor of MPS Braille Students

Marilyn Harmon

**In Honor of Cheryl Orgas, Staff &
Volunteers**

Nancy Sowa

**In Honor of Jean Atkinson - another very
early volunteer!**

Janet Tippet Goldsmith

In Honor of Michelle Gran

Missy Egelhoff

In Honor of Jean Janicke

Heather West

In Honor of Dawn Koceja

Douglas Ranger

**In Honor of William Meeker &
Cheryl Orgas**

Kathryn Lorrigan

In Honor of Cheryl Orgas

Terri Davis

Chris & Tracy Meeker

Lenore Tesch

Sue Wood

In Honor of Sue and Doug Ranger

Beverly Coyne

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Special Donations

Donations through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Elm II Fund
Nonprofit Management Fund
Spirit Gifts-SMS Fund
Dan and Sheila Vander Sanden
Family Foundation

Donations through United Way of Greater Milwaukee

Wendy Huot
Dan Jambura
Ted Kellner
Harold Mester

\$10,000 and up

Bader Philanthropies
Charles E. Benidt Foundation Inc.
The Bremer Family Charitable Fund
The Otto Bremer Trust
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Industries for the Blind 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.
The Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
Gordon Flesch Charitable Foundation
B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation
Estate of Eleanor Hoehn
Jerome and Dorothy Holz Family Foundation
Ladish Co. Foundation
Nonprofit Management Fund
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation Inc.
Katherine Schneider

\$5,000 - \$9,999, cont'd.

Schneider National Foundation Inc.
A.O. Smith Foundation Inc.
Stackner Family Foundation
Gregory C. Van Wie Charitable Fund

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous
Badger Meter Foundation
Chase Family Foundation
Cornerstone Foundation of Northeastern Wisconsin
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
The Albert J. and Flora H. Ellinger Foundation Inc.
Elm II Fund
Greater Milwaukee Association of REALTORS® Youth Foundation Inc.
Hauske Family Foundation, Inc.
Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation
William & Sandy Heitz Family Foundation
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation
Megan Hindman
Elliott King
Milwaukee Public Library
Cheryl Orgas & William Meeker
Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust
Randall & Janet Peterson
The L.E. Phillips Family Foundation, Inc.
PPC Foundation (PieperPower Foundation)
John & Sue Roberts
Saint John's Communities Visually Impaired Endowment Fund
Theodore Strupp & Marybeth Jacobson
E.C. Styberg Foundation Inc.
WE Energies Foundation
WisPact Inc. Foundation

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\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Sue Bronson
Frank & Susan Gedelman
Joanne Gerszewski
IBM Corporation
IndependenceFirst
Neil Jaehnert
Kelben Foundation Inc.
Dale & Judy Kuehn
Brian & Amy Mason
Margaret Meeker & Jeff Fletcher
Pilot Club
Ritz Holman, LLP
Margit Schatzman & Stephen Bleksley
Michael Schiek
Sue & Larry Sebranek
Spirit Gifts-SMS Fund
Glen Stacey Memorial Fund
Brian & Pam Stark Charitable Fund
Town Bank
Dan and Sheila Vander Sanden
Family Foundation

\$100 - \$499

Anonymous
Janice Beaton
Michael & Luann Berns
Tim Bouquet & Victoria Vogl
Gary & Helen Brashear
Nicholas & Susan Bridge
Robert Buettner
Sandra Christensen
Mary & James Connelly
Beverly Coyne
Jerry & Alice Davis
Lois Davis
Terri Davis
Cliona Draper
Ana Maria Duerr
Barb Duffy

\$100 - \$499, cont'd.

Missy Egelhoff
Elsa's on the Park
Cheryl Esquilin
Carlos Garcia
Beth Giacobassi
Richard Goessner
Beatrice Hahn
Marilyn Harmon
Doris & Ed Heiser
Andrew & Paula Holman
Susan & Gaylen Kapperman
Gary Kendziorski
Susan Knorr
Dawn Koceja
Herbert H. Kohl Charities Inc.
Patricia Lidicker
Kathryn Lorrigan
Holly Loveland
Danielle Ludtke
Chris & Tracy Meeker
Zarina Mohd Shah
Don Natzke & Erica Weise
Mary Parsons
Scott & Carol Paulson
Kenneth Payne
Rich & Diana Pine
Stephanie Pribyl
David Raasch
Douglas Ranger
John & Janice Raymond
Erica Reib
Gary Goyke & Nancy Rottier
Erna Schatzman
Mark & Joan Schneider
Nancy Sowa
Spellman Eggert Foundation
Lenore Tesch
Tracy Thomas
Janet Tippet Goldsmith
Jean Wagemann

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\$100 - \$499, cont'd.

Linda Wagner
William Wagner & Jean Schott-Wagner
Carolyn K. Washburne
Patsy Watson
Robert Watson
Linda Weber
Heather West
Sue Wood
Liz Worrell
Lisa Xiong
Sr. John Ann Zettelmaier
Janet Zoltan

Up to \$99, cont'd.

Della Rose
Lillian Rostagno & Annette Gahlman
Minna & Mark Smith
Lisa Stackpole
Patricia Vastalo
Vision Forward Association
Wisconsin Lions District 27-A1

Up to \$99

Sandra Adams
Valerie Beteag
Lisa Bretz
Cheri Briscoe
Leah Cazares
Terry & Leslie Cooley
Maureen Dowling
Janet Sue Fox
William Graczyk
Michelle Gran
Joyce Guinn
Mary-Kay & Keith Hebl
Sarah Heesen
Marilyn Heiden
Allan & Sandra Heikkinen
Kathy Herbst
Thomas Koceja
Carol Kucharski
Daniel & Helen Lococo
Mary Macarthur
Kevin Meyers
Ranee Napp
Barbara Nevers
Kristina Paris
Gregory Renz
Elizabeth Rheingans
James Rocheleau