



Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

Providing alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read **Autumn 2023**

Central Library Building 803 W. Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 286-3039 www.ablenow.org

See You at the Luncheon!

ABLE's Annual Volunteer Recognition and Benefit Luncheon is coming up fast! Please join us from 11:15 a.m to 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, October 26th**, at the Italian Conference Center to honor our ABLE volunteers, support our mission and meet some of ABLE's student recipients. Register at <https://www.ablenow.org/news-events/annual-luncheon>. Complimentary parking and wheelchair access. Details on our website. Register by October 11th.

This year's luncheon will once again feature a presentation by Milwaukee Public School students who are blind or visually impaired, providing them with the opportunity to meet and thank the donors and volunteers who make it possible for them to receive classroom materials at the same time as their sighted peers. Our volunteers receiving awards this year are:

Braille:

Barbara Althoen 25,000 hours
Kris Drollinger 1,500 hours
Cheryl Esquilin 5,000 hours
Vidya Girish 500 hours

Janet Kiekhofer 2,500 hours
Dale Kuehn 1,000 hours
Karen Riccobono 500 hours
Leonard Zaworski (deceased) 2,000 hours

Audio:

Ellie Bradish 250 hours

Susan Knorr 500 hours

The Value of Volunteers

The time, skills and energy that our volunteers provide are invaluable to us and to those we serve. While we don't think about our volunteers' service in terms of dollars and cents until it's time for our annual financial review, the Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org) calculated a value of \$31.80 per volunteer hour for 2022. In 2022, our volunteers gave 9,256 hours of service! We can't possibly thank each and every one of our volunteers enough.

Opportunities to Support Our Luncheon

We'd like to thank each of the generous sponsors of this event, and give special recognition to our Audio & Braille Advocate Sponsors:



Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.
Beyond Vision



Would you like to join them in sponsoring this annual event? Your sponsorship will enable us to continue bringing information and literacy into the lives of so many. See our sponsorship levels on Page 4, or visit our website at <https://www.ablenow.org/news-events/annual-luncheon/sponsorship-opportunities/>.

Thank you!

A Warm Welcome to Our Three New Board Members

We're excited to introduce you to our three newest ABLE board members who joined us in 2023.



Ann Johnston is a workforce consultant and trainer including DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) who is sharing her expertise with us as we seek to address DEI issues in our work among staff, board members, and recipients of our services. Ann is also a Book Builder sponsor for our upcoming luncheon.

Photo of Ann Johnston

Guadalupe Creapeau has also joined our team. Guadalupe was an intern with us in 2008, and since 2009 she has volunteered as a blind adult mentor with Braille Games. Now we are excited to have her on the ABLE Board. She is a braille reader and braille advocate and a special education paraprofessional with Milwaukee Public Schools.



Photo of Guadalupe Creapeau



Xin Ju Hippe, also a braille reader and braille advocate, has just joined our team in August. Xin Ju has also been a Braille Games volunteer. She is a long-time recipient of ABLE's services who received learning materials throughout her elementary and high school years. "ABLE has enabled me to be successful in many areas, from Latin to Academic Decathlon, to feeling like an 'actual adult' in reading my own

Photo of Xin Ju Hippe

See our [annual report](https://ablenow.org) at ablenow.org, which includes our full board of directors and staff list for 2022.

Blasting off with Braille Games

The 2023 Braille Games on May 11th was an amazing success. Nearly thirty children from Milwaukee Public Schools and surrounding school districts from as far away as Oshkosh had a blast at the games this year.

Focusing on astronomy, the sky was the limit! Children were fascinated by the tactiles of the moon, supplied by NASA. Everybody was able to blast off a replica of a rocket! Braille was very much a part of the day as children made words with braille blocks, read about the moon, wrote a story about exploring their own secret planet and played a board game, *Race to the Moon*. ABLE collaborated with the Milwaukee Public Museum, Vision Forward and the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, with blind adult mentors lent to Braille Games by Beyond Vision, to put on Braille Games. This is an annual event that provides activities emphasizing the importance and relevance of braille for blind children. We were grateful to be again at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

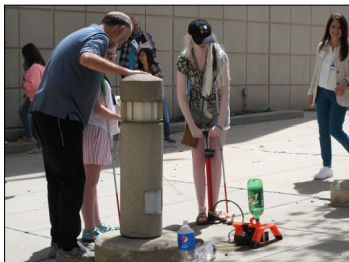


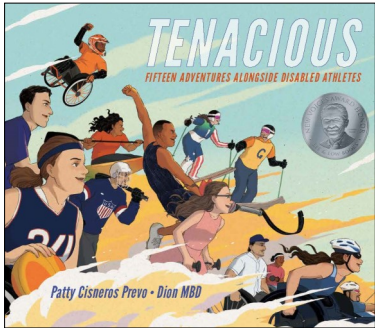
Photo left: Child trying rocket launch

Photo right: Children using braille blocks



Braille Books for Children

We are so grateful to the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation for supporting our book project to put 100 braille and print copies of the book, *Tenacious: Fifteen Adventures Alongside Disabled Athletes*, into the hands of braille readers throughout Wisconsin.



Graphic of *Tenacious* book cover

In *Tenacious* you will meet fifteen remarkable athletes who use adaptive equipment in this beautiful and truth-telling picture book. A downhill skier whose blindness has sharpened her communication skills. An adaptive surfer who shreds waves while sitting down. A young man who excels at wheelchair motocross, but struggles with math. *Tenacious* tells their stories and more, revealing the daily joys and challenges of life as disabled athletes.

Author Patty Cisneros Prevo is a two-time Paralympic gold medalist, and proud mom and partner. She also works as the University of Wisconsin Health Program Manager of DEI. Patty experienced a spinal cord injury in college but went on to compete in wheelchair basketball at the Paralympic Games.

At ABLE, this book project continues an initiative we started in 2018 to get more braille books into the hands of blind children throughout Wisconsin. This book has also been read in our state-of-the-art Sound Center by volunteer reader, Tiffany Tinsley. Because of the partnership with the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, the audio version of this book will be made available to over 310,000 individuals throughout the whole country.



Photo of Tiffany Tinsley reading in ABLE's Sound Center

Say Goodbye, and Say Hello!

We say farewell to Dylan Shanahan who served as our audio manager and tactile assistant. He was a wonderful member of the ABLE team and an amazing tactile transcriber. He was always eager to take on new challenges. Thank you, Dylan! We wish you all the best.

Stephen Strupp was promoted from audio assistant to the audio manager position. To replace Stephen's position, we hired audio specialist Tim Turton, who hit the ground running. Tim is a very capable sound editor who is already loved by our volunteer team.



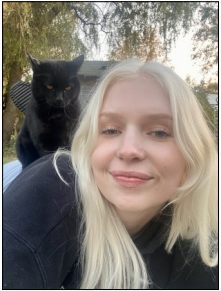
Photo of Tim Turton

Tim adds, "I'm thrilled to join the ABLE team as audio specialist, and very honored to have been selected for the position. Having endured seventeen Milwaukee winters I consider myself a true Wisconsinite, but I am originally from Cambridge in the south of England and worked in London's music industry. After emigrating to America I worked as an audio engineer and music composer at 5th Floor Recording Co. in Milwaukee's Third Ward, before diversifying into marketing, video production and animation work. I'm grateful for the opportunity to return to working in audio for such a fantastic organization."

Meet Amy Rosiewski, our new braille department intake coordinator and tactile transcriber on Page 4.

Hello, Amy!

For tactile transcription, we had the great fortune to hire Amy Rosiewski to be our braille department intake coordinator and tactile transcriber.



*Photo of Amy
Rosiewski*

Amy says, “After seeing the 1951 movie *Bright Victory* in which a soldier is wounded in WWII, loses his vision, and undergoes O&M (orientation and mobility) and braille education, I was moved to find a position working with blind and visually impaired individuals. This eventually led me to becoming a one-to-one instructional assistant, transcribing many tactiles for a few different blind and visually impaired students for about five years. I am very happy to now be a part of the wonderful team at ABLE!

“I live on a 35 acre farm in Waterford with an elderly family member who is my best friend. We have one horse, Rocky, five indoor cats, and feed a few hungry ferals who live outside in our numerous buildings. I love listening to music, watching old Hollywood movies, and spending time tending to our gardens.”

Opportunities to Support ABLE's 58th Annual Luncheon

Audio & Braille Advocate (\$3,000)

- Two minutes of podium time to share your company information and mission
- Public acknowledgement and display of logo during event
- Table for up to 8 guests
- Public acknowledgement on ABLE's 58th Anniversary event webpage, Facebook, and email blasts about the event.
- Full page message in program booklet (5.5" x 8.5")
- Name recognition at event
- Placement of marketing materials on each table, in accessible formats

Book Builder (\$2,000)

- Table for up to 8 guests
- Public acknowledgement on ABLE's 58th Anniversary event webpage, Facebook, and email blasts about the event.

Book Builder (\$2,000) cont'd.

- Half page message in program booklet (5.5" x 4.25")
- Name recognition at event
- Placement of marketing materials on each table, in accessible formats

Literacy Leader (\$1,000)

- Table for up to 8 guests
- Quarter page message in program booklet (5.25" x 2.12")
- Name recognition at event

Education Enhancer (\$500)

- Table for up to 8 guests
- Name recognition in program booklet and on table

Please send your logo to kduerr@ablenow.org. Thanks!