



Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2023

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

The Year in Review

2023 was a year of significant growth at ABLE as we finalized and began to implement a five-year strategic plan to expand and enhance our services for people who are blind or otherwise print disabled. The strategic plan builds on the work we have been doing for nearly 60 years. It includes delivering high quality braille, audio, and tactile products to match community demand and need; and, becoming the premier service provider of choice for people who are blind, visually impaired, and print disabled in Milwaukee.

Our team of staff and volunteers produced 14,070 pages of brailled learning materials for students in 2023, including 2,279 tactile diagrams (raised line drawings). Each page that ABLE produced signified another opportunity for blind students to have a level playing field with their sighted peers. We also implemented several action steps from our strategic plan to keep up with growing demand and to minimize turn-around time for brailled educational materials needed in classrooms. In addition, we produced braille materials for the broader community, including programs for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Marcus Performing Arts Center, and ballots for the Milwaukee County Election Commission.

ABLE continued to meet individual needs for both braille and audio, transcribing items such as cookbooks, a family's collection of favorite hymns, and books about animal care. Materials requested in an audio format for personal use are recorded by a passionate team of in-home volunteer readers, including some who are not based in the Milwaukee area. We are one of the few organizations in the U.S. that still responds to these individual requests.

Audiobooks produced in the ABLE Sound Center meet the rigorous digital recording standards of the National Library Service. Emphasizing Wisconsin authors, ABLE records books for both children and adults. Each new book is accessible on an ongoing basis. Over the past two years, 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—including a more challenging audio audition—has increased the skill level of our volunteers and, in turn, has led to efficiencies in book production. In 2023 we produced 73 audiobooks, and books recorded by ABLE circulated over 12,000 times. Both were new records for us!

In addition to books, ABLE produced other audio resources that help blind and print disabled people participate more fully in community life, including schedules for Summerfest, the Wisconsin State Fair and Irish Fest, as well as a monthly recording of *Milwaukee Magazine*.

We are so grateful for the longstanding commitment of all who contribute to ABLE, in so many ways. Working together, we can enhance literacy, dignity, productivity and independence for people in our community who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled.

Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

Statement of Activities 2023

Support & Revenue		Expenses	
Foundation Grants	\$ 376,915	Program Services	\$ 668,614
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 272,018	Management & Gen'l	\$ 59,485
Program Service Fees	\$ 62,618	Fundraising	\$ 28,018
Contributions	\$ 67,976	Total Expenses	\$ 756,117
Investment Income	\$ 35,807		
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 815,334		

Board of Directors

Michelle Gran, President	Stephanie Holt
Erica Reib, Vice President	Ann Johnston
Brian Mason, Secretary	Kathy Kerrigan
Robert Watson, Treasurer	Elliott King
Guadalupe Creapeau	Dawn Koceja
Carlos Garcia	Dale Kuehn
Sarah Heesen	Zarina Mohd Shah, Ex Officio
XinJu Hippe	

Staff

Shawn Brimley Braille Assistant	Amy Rosiewski Intake Coordinator & Tactile Transcriber
Karen Duerr Office Manager	Matthew Scholtes Tactile & Production Manager
Claire Egan Braille Manager	Dylan Shanahan Audio Manager
Janet Kiekhofer Braille Production Specialist	Stephen Strupp Audio Manager
Cheryl Orgas Executive Director	Meghan Swanson Braille Production Manager
Sean Paulson Tactile Assistant	Tim Turton Audio Specialist

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Honors and Memorials

In Memory of Arthur Bleksley

Margit Schatzman

**In Honor of John & Cindy Kaczmarowski's
50th Wedding Anniversary**

Mark & Lynn Johnson

Dale & Judith Kuehn

John & Sandy Richter

In Honor of Kathy Kerrigan

Daniel Kerrigan

In Honor of Bennett Lehman

Michael & Luann Berns

In Memory of Joyce Mann

Pollyanne Mather

In Memory of Bettie McClenaghan

Laurie Larson

In Memory of Muriel McFarland

Muriel Fallon

In Memory of Cheri McGrath

Carol Carpenter

Tracy Harrington

H Nicholas & Joyce Pabst

Lenore Tesch

Winifred Thrall

Linda Vincent & Alberto Herrera Jr.

In Honor of Cheryl Orgas

Doris & Ed Heiser

Christopher & Tracy Meeker

Sue Wood

In Honor of Cheryl Orgas and Bill Meeker

Mary & James Connelly

Kathleen Herbst

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

Nancy Sowa

In Memory of Robert & Lorraine Orgas

Jeffery & Roberta Whiteside

In Memory of Joe Prokos

Elizabeth Waterfall & Emeric Rokay

In Honor of Mary Rose

Diana Pine

In Memory of S. Melmarie Stoll

Sandra Adams

In Memory of Joe Walsh

Cliona Draper

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Donations through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (GMF)

Dr. Samuel S. and Anne W. Blankstein Family Fund II
Eleanor Buetschli Fund
Dyar Foundation
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
Mr. & Mrs. Ted D. Kellner
Harold Mester

\$10,000 and up

Anonymous
Bader Philanthropies
Charles E Benidt Foundation, Inc.
Eleanor Buetschli Fund (GMF)
Industries for the Blind, Inc.
Catherine and Walter Lindsay Foundation Fund (GMF)
Melitta S. Pick Charitable Trust
PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation
Francie Luke Silverman Foundation
The Viper Ride

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anon Charitable Trust
Gene & Lori Batchelder
Alvin and Marion Birnschein Foundation, Inc.
Catholic Community Foundation
The Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation
Dyar Foundation (GMF)
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation
Jerome and Dorothy Holz Family Foundation
Ladish Co. Foundation
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, Inc.
Schneider National Foundation, Inc.
A.O. Smith Foundation, Inc.
Stackner Family Foundation
Wispect Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous
Badger Meter Foundation
Beyond Vision
Dr. Samuel S. and Anne W. Blankstein Family Fund II (GMF)
Chase Family Foundation
Cornerstone Foundation of Northeastern Wisconsin
Elm II (GMF)
Greater Milwaukee Association of REALTORS® Youth Foundation, Inc.
Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation
William & Sandy Heitz Family Foundation
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

Dorothy Inbusch Foundation, Inc.
Ann Johnston
Ted & Mary Kellner
Patricia Lidicker
Alice Massa
New Berlin Lions Club Foundation, Inc.
Oak Creek Lions Club, Inc.
Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust
Randall & Janet Peterson
The L.E. Phillips Family Foundation, Inc.
The Presto Foundation
Saint John's Communities' Visually Impaired
Endowment Fund
Michael Schiek
Spirit Gifts–SMS Fund (GMF)
Theodore Strupp & Marybeth Jacobson
E.C. Styberg Foundation, Inc.
Sunrise Foundation Fund (GMF)
Vilter Foundation, Inc.
WE Energies Foundation
Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Bartolotta Management Group (Care-a-Lotta)
Sue Bronson
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
Joanne Gerszewski
IndependenceFirst
Dan Jambura
Neil Jaehnert

\$500 - \$999 (continued)

Kelben Foundation, Inc.
Daniel Kerrigan
Timothy & Kathy Kerrigan
Janet & Jim Kiekhofer
Dale & Judith Kuehn
Laurie Larson
Lions Club of Racine
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Cheryl Orgas & William Meeker
Ritz Holman LLP
Mark & Joan Schneider
Sue & Larry Sebranek
Town Bank
Waterford Lions Foundation
Jeffery & Roberta Whiteside
Wipfli, LLP

\$100 - \$499

Anonymous
Sandra Adams
American Family Corporate
Janice Beaton
Michael & Luann Berns
Tim Bouquet & Victoria Vogl
Gary & Helen Brashear
Carol Carpenter
Sandra Christensen
Mary & James Connelly
Jerry & Alice Davis
Lois Davis
Beverly Doherty & Thomas Hamilton
Cliona Draper

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\$100 - \$499 (continued)

Cheryl Esquilin
Richard & Mary Fanyo
Lisa Gatewood Szocik
Frank & Susan Gedelman
Beth Giacobassi
Richard Goessner
Gary Goyke & Nancy Rottier
Michelle Gran
Greendale Lions Club, Inc.
Beatrice Hahn
Doris & Ed Heiser
Kathleen Herbst
Andrew & Paula Holman
Wendy Huot
Susan & Gaylen Kapperman
Kelben Foundation, Inc.
Gary Kendziorski
Kenosha Noon Lions Foundation
Susan Knorr
Dawn Koceja
Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc.
Dan & Helen Lococo
Kathryn Lorrigan
Holly Loveland
Brian & Amy Mason
Pollyanne Mather
Chris & Tracy Meeker
Margaret Meeker & Jeff Fletcher
Harold Mester
Kevin Meyers
Zarina Mohd Shah
Amy Nolan

\$100 - \$499 (continued)

Betty Jane Orgas
Jennifer & David Ottowitz
H. Nicholas & Joyce Pabst
Scott & Carol Paulson
Kenneth Payne
Paul Picciotta
Craig & Randy Pierce
Rich & Diana Pine
Stephanie Pribyl
Douglas Ranger
John & Janice Raymond
Erica Reib
Greg Renz
Corliss Rice
John & Sandy Richter
Richard & Phyllis Robbins
James Rocheleau
Erna Schatzman
Margit Schatzman
Dylan Shanahan
Minna Smith
Nancy Sowa
Spellman Eggert Foundation
Glen Stacey Memorial Fund
Stephen Strupp
Lenore Tesch
Tracy Thomas
Janet Tippet Goldsmith
Linda Vincent & Alberto Herrera Jr.
Vision Forward Association
Jean Wagemann
Linda Wagner

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\$100 - \$499 (continued)

William Wagner & Jean Schott-Wagner
Carolyn K Washburne
Elizabeth Waterfall & Emeric Rokay
Patricia Watson
Robert & Jenny Watson
West Allis Lions Club
Heather West
Sue Wood
Liz Worrell
Max Yela & Catherine Loomis
Marian & Donald Yoder

Up to \$99 (continued)

Sandra Melcher
Barbara Nevers
Winifred Thrall
Tiffany & Brad Tinsey
Patricia Vastalo
Jennifer Wenzel
Wisconsin Lions District 27-A1
Tom Wolf
Sr. John Ann Zettelmaier
Janet Zoltan

Up to \$99

Anonymous
American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.
Celeste Baldassare
Tom & Cheri Briscoe
Guadalupe Creapeau
Constance Crooks
Maureen Dowling
Kris & Rick Drollinger
Muriel Fallon
Bridgett Gonzalez
Joyce Guinn
Tracy Harrington
Allan & Sandra Heikkinen
Megan Hindman
Mark & Lynn Johnson
John & Sue Kaminsky
Sandra Kelley
Elliott King