



# Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2024

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

## The Year in Review

With the generous support of our funders and partners, 2024 was a year of growth at ABLE, as we continued to implement our five-year strategic plan to expand and enhance our services for people who are blind or otherwise print disabled.

ABLE continued to produce audiobooks in the ABLE Sound Center that meet the rigorous digital recording standards of the National Library Service. Emphasizing Wisconsin authors, ABLE records books for both children and adults. In addition to books, ABLE produces 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*. In 2024 we also produced a Handbook for Borrowers and a DVD catalog for the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library.

ABLE upheld its commitment to meet individual needs for both braille and audio, transcribing items such as books with knitting patterns, healthy eating guides, memoirs, and job training materials.

In 2024 ABLE's team of staff and volunteers produced 16,445 pages of brailled learning materials for students, including 2,384 tactile diagrams (raised line drawings). Each page that ABLE produces signifies another opportunity for blind students to have a level playing field with their sighted peers.

We continued our initiative to get more books into the hands of blind children throughout Wisconsin. Based on the feedback we have received, we believe these books are encouraging braille reading skills and inspiring blind children with the courage, insight, and resilience of the books' blind protagonists. ABLE also produces 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. We produced over 6,800 pages of braille materials for adults last year.

We are so grateful for the commitment of all our stakeholders who work with us to 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 2024

### Support & Revenue

Foundation Grants	\$ 414,917
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 282,753
Program Service Fees	\$ 62,671
Contributions	\$ 290,108
Investment Income	\$ 84,554
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,135,003</b>

### Expenses

Program Services	\$ 688,926
Management & Gen'l	\$ 61,102
Fundraising	\$ 30,143
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 780,171</b>

## Board of Directors

Michelle Gran, President  
Erica Reib, Vice President  
Brian Mason, Secretary  
Robert Watson, Treasurer  
Sarah Heesen  
Xinyue Hippe  
Stephanie Holt  
Ann Johnston

Kathy Kerrigan  
Elliott King  
Dawn Koceja  
Dale Kuehn  
Guadalupe Torrijos  
Jennifer Wenzel  
Zarina Mohd Shah, Ex Officio

## Staff

Shawn Brimley  
Braille Assistant  
  
Karen Duerr  
Office Manager  
  
Claire Egan  
Braille Manager  
  
Heather Hasse  
Tactile and Braille Production Assistant  
  
Janet Kiekhofer  
Braille Production Specialist  
  
Cheryl Orgas  
Executive Director

Sean Paulson  
Tactile Assistant  
  
Amy Rosiewski  
Intake Coordinator and Tactile Transcriber  
  
Matthew Scholtes  
Tactile & Production Manager  
  
Stephen Strupp  
Audio Manager  
  
Meghan Swanson  
Braille Production Manager  
  
Tim Turton  
Audio Specialist

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**Honors and Memorials**

**In loving memory of Jan Beaton**

Cindy Pinkley

**In memory of Marilyn Harmon**

Jennifer Lopeman

**In honor of Dawn Koceja**

Douglas Ranger

**In honor of Dale Kuehn, Board Member/  
Volunteer**

Peggy Harvey

Kathleen & James Raml

**In honor of Bennett Lehman**

Michael & Luann Berns

**In memory of Cheri McGrath**

Tom & Cheri Briscoe

Deborah Hagman-Shannon & Daniel Shannon

Irene Lipo

Connie Sleger

**In honor of Cheri and Shadow, her S.E. Dog**

Irene Lipo

**In memory of James and Mary Massa**

Alice Massa

**In memory of Daniel G Moratz**

Dale & Judy Kuehn

**In honor of Cheryl Orgas**

Elliott King

Christopher & Tracy Meeker

**In honor of Cheryl Orgas cont'd.**

Nancy Sowa

Linda Vincent & Alberto Herrera Jr.

Sue Wood

**In honor of our awesome niece and nephew  
Cheryl Orgas and Bill Meeker**

Helen & Gary Brashear

**In honor of Erica Reib**

Christa Wittenburg

**In memory of Michael Rocheleau**

James Rocheleau

**In memory of Sister Mel Marie Stoll**

Sr. John Ann Zettelmaier

**To honor Lenore Tesch - 90th Birthday**

Frand & Eileen Campbell

**In memory of Ed Wagner**

Linda Wagner

**In honor of Joe Walsh**

Cliona Draper

**In honor of Sam Zellmer**

Sarah Heesen

**In honor of S. John Ann Zettelmaier**

Julia & Zachary Cimaglio

**In honor of Gil Zins**

Angela Rester

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**Donations through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (GMF)**

Dyar Foundation  
Elm II  
Spirit Gifts-SMS Fund  
Naomi B. Strehlow Fund  
Sunrise Foundation Fund

**Donations through United Way of Greater Milwaukee**

Wendy Huot  
Dan Jambura  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted D. Kellner  
Harold & Leann Mester

**\$10,000 and up**

Anonymous  
Bader Philanthropies  
Charles E. Benidt Foundation Inc  
Alvin and Marion Birnschein Foundation  
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation  
Industries for the Blind Inc.  
Cheri McGrath  
The Otto Bremer Trust  
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation Inc  
Melitta S. Pick Charitable Trust  
Francie Luke Silverman Foundation  
Naomi B. Strehlow Fund (GMF)

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anon Charitable Trust  
Batchelder Family Charitable Fund  
Catholic Community Foundation

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

The Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation  
B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation  
Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation  
Jerome and Dorothy Holz Family Foundation  
Herb Kohl Philanthropies  
Ladish Co. Foundation  
Rich & Diana Pine  
Saint John's Communities' Visually Impaired  
Endowment Fund  
Katherine Schneider  
A.O. Smith Foundation Inc.  
Stackner Family Foundation  
Gregory C. Van Wie Charitable Fund  
Wispact Foundation

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Anonymous  
Beyond Vision  
Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation  
Sue Bronson  
Chase Family Foundation  
Cornerstone Foundation of Northeastern  
Wisconsin  
Dyar Foundation (GMF)  
Elm II (GMF)  
Greater Milwaukee Association of  
REALTORS® Youth Foundation Inc  
Green Bay Packers Foundation  
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation  
Ann Johnston  
Kelben Foundation  
Ted & Mary Kellner

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

Patricia Lidicker  
Alice Massa  
Milwaukee Bucks  
Milwaukee County Transit System  
New Berlin Lions Club Foundation, Inc  
Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust  
The L.E. Phillips Family Foundation, Inc  
The Presto Foundation  
St. Vincent De Paul Foundation, Inc.  
Michael Schiek  
Spirit Gifts–SMS Fund (GMF)  
Theodore Strupp & Marybeth Jacobson  
E.C. Styberg Foundation Inc  
Sunrise Foundation Fund (GMF)  
Vilter Foundation, Inc  
Robert & Jenny Watson  
WE Energies Foundation  
Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library  
Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation

#### **\$500 - \$999**

Anonymous  
American Online Giving Foundation  
Bartolotta Management Group (Care-a-Lotta)  
Cleary-Kumm Foundation  
The Albert J. and Flora H. Ellinger Foundation  
Frank & Susan Gedelman  
Joanne Gerszewski  
Independence First  
Neil Jaehnert  
Kenosha Noon Lions Foundation  
Magnify LLC  
Brian & Amy Mason

#### **\$500 - \$999 cont'd.**

Cheryl Orgas & William Meeker  
Jennifer & David Ottowitz  
Ritz Holman LLP  
Sue & Larry Sebranek  
Kim Tesch  
Town Bank

#### **\$100 - \$499**

Anonymous  
Sandra Adams  
Michael & Luann Berns  
Gary & Helen Brashear  
Kathleen Bruening  
Sandra Christensen  
Mary & James Connelly  
Jerry & Alice Davis  
Lois Davis  
Andres & Diane De Leon  
Beverly Doherty & Thomas Hamilton  
Maureen & William Dowling  
Cliona Draper  
Bonita Drew  
Elsa's on the Park  
Richard & Mary Fanyo  
Lisa Gatewood Szocik  
Beth Giacobassi  
Janet Goldsmith  
Greendale Lions Club  
Beatrice Hahn  
Doris Heiser  
Xinyue Hippe  
Andrew & Paula Holman  
Stephanie Holt

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#### **\$100 - \$499 cont'd.**

Lora Hyler & Kenneth Pinckney  
Andrew Jambura & Quinn Cory  
Gary Kendziorski  
Susan Knorr  
Dale & Judy Kuehn  
Irene Lipo  
Jennifer Lopeman  
Kathryn Lorrigan  
Holly Loveland  
Christopher & Tracy Meeker  
Zarina Mohd Shah  
National BVI Chamber of Commerce  
Donald Natzke & Erica Weise  
Amy & Sara Nolan  
Stephanie Pribyl  
Douglas Ranger  
John & Janice Raymond  
Erica Reib  
ResearchOnce  
James Rocheleau  
Erna Schatzman  
Margit Schatzman  
Mark and Joan Schneider  
Shauna Singh Baldwin  
Nancy Sowa  
Spellman Eggert Foundation  
Glen Stacey Memorial Fund  
Tiffany Tinsey  
Linda Vincent & Alberto Herrera Jr.  
Linda Wagner  
Carolyn K Washburne  
Patricia Ann Watson  
West Allis Lions Club

#### **\$100 - \$499 cont'd.**

Heather West  
Christa Wittenberg  
Sue Wood  
Liz & Jan Worrell  
Donald & Janet Zoltan

#### **Up to \$99**

Anonymous  
Jaclyn Borchardt  
Lisa Bretz  
Tom & Cheri Briscoe  
Donna Brown-Martin  
Frand & Eileen Campbell  
Margaret Casey  
Judith Christofferson  
Julia & Zachary Cimaglio  
Constance Crooks  
Kris & Rick Drollinger  
Jeanne Durnford  
Janet Fox  
Michelle Gran  
Joyce Guinn  
Deborah Hagman-Shannon & Daniel Shannon  
Peggy Harvey  
Sarah Heesen  
Julia Hilbert  
DesAnne Hippe  
Elliott King  
Dawn Koceja  
Carol Ann Kucharski  
Dan & Helen Lococo  
John Lonsdale & Patricia Stonger  
Kevin Meyers

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#### **Up to \$99 cont'd.**

Barbara Nevers

Kristina Paris

Scott & Carol Paulson

Cindy Pinkley

Kathleen & James Raml

Angela Rester

Caroline Rose

Jonathan Rupprecht

Roseann St. Aubin

Gloria Santilli

Connie Sleger

Kerry Stubbs

Guadalupe Torrijos

Jean Wagemann

Elizabeth Waterfall & Emeric Rokay

Jennifer & Dan Wenzel

Tom Wolf

Donald Yoder

Sr. John Ann Zettelmaier