



Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2025

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

The Year in Review

In October of 2025, ABLE celebrated our Diamond Anniversary—60 years of service to the blindness community! ABLE has adapted to changing needs and changing technologies while continuing to work toward our vision: that everyone has access to the printed word. Our services enhance literacy, dignity, productivity, and independence for people in our community who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled.

Providing braille learning materials for blind children continues to be our signature service. In 2025, we produced 12,691 pages of braille materials for students, including 1,129 tactile diagrams. Tactiles are raised line drawings that can be felt and understood with the fingers. These learning tools are critically important for students to understand concepts not easily explained in words, such as maps and graphs.

Our initiative to get more brailled books into the hands of blind children in Wisconsin continues to be very popular. This program gives blind children access to books they can read for pleasure, especially books that feature blind protagonists.

ABLE had another record setting year in 2025 with the production of 83 new audiobooks. There are now over 550 books produced in ABLE's Sound Center that are available on an ongoing basis to the 5,705 patrons of the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL). Many of these books have been downloaded hundreds of times. Few, if any, would be available in an audio format if not for our program.

An estimated 90% of WTBBL patrons are older adults, but children also access books through this service. Although ABLE strongly believes that blind children need to learn braille in order to be literate, we also recognize the value of audiobooks as a resource for blind children. Audiobooks increase opportunities for blind children to read, above and beyond their school textbooks. Just as with sighted children, reading expands their vocabularies, improves their communication abilities, enhances concentration, and promotes logical thinking skills. In 2025 we produced 11 audio books for children, and 14 for young adults.

ABLE would not have reached our 60-year Diamond Anniversary without our longstanding partnerships. We are so grateful to the schools, organizations, funders, and blindness community that make our work possible.

Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

Statement of Activities 2025

Support & Revenue		Expenses	
Foundation Grants	\$ 338,891	Program Services	\$ 672,963
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 235,095	Management & Gen'l	\$ 61,827
Program Service Fees	\$ 54,934	Fundraising	\$ 31,314
Contributions	\$ 82,772	Total Expenses	\$ 766,104
Investment Income	\$ 72,747		
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 784,439		

Board of Directors

Michelle Gauthier, President	Ann Johnston
Dawn Koceja, Vice President	Kathy Kerrigan
Jennifer Wenzel, Secretary	Elliott King
Robert Watson, Treasurer	Dale Kuehn
Sarah Heesen	Erica Reib
Xinyue Hippe	Guadalupe Torrijos
Stephanie Holt	Beth Voecks, Ex Officio

Staff

Cheryl Orgas Executive Director	
Shawn Brimley Braille Assistant	Sean Paulson Tactile Assistant
Karen Duerr Office Manager	Matthew Scholtes Tactile & Production Manager
Claire Egan Braille Manager	Stephen Strupp Audio Manager
Heather Hasse Tactile and Braille Production Assistant	Meghan Swanson Braille Production Manager
Janet Kiekhofer Braille Production Specialist	Tim Turton Audio Specialist

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

In honor of ABLE

Zarina Mohd Shah

In honor of Terry Eggert

Maura Eggert

In memory of Katie Ferguson

Kim Koch

In honor of friends who are blind or deaf

Minna R. Smith

In honor of Happy anniversary!

Kim Schultz

In memory of Audrey Hemmer

Dora & David Behling

Laura Hall

Kevin Gerke

Terie Johnson & OJ Johnson

Pam LaSalle

Neil Schultz Johnson

**In memory of my braille mother Barbara
Hodges**

Doris & Ed Heiser

In honor of Jean Janicke

Heather West

In honor of Dawn Koceja

Douglas Ranger

In honor of Bennett Lehman

Michael & Luann Berns

In memory of James and Mary Massa

Alice Massa

In memory of Cheri McGrath

Tom & Cheri Briscoe

In honor of Lynn Mester

Harold & Leann Mester

In honor of Cheryl Orgas

Mindie Feist

Doris & Ed Heiser

Linda Vincent & Alberto Herrera Jr.

Will Janisch

Christopher & Tracy Meeker

Lenore Tesch

Sue Wood

Donald Yoder

**In honor of Niece Cheryl Orgas & Nephew
Bill Meeker**

Gary & Helen Brashear

In honor of Cheryl Orgas & the team

Elliott King

In honor of Diana & Rich Pine

Kim Koch

In memory of Erna Schatzman

Margit Schatzman & Stephen Bleksley

In honor of Matthew Scholtes

Tom & Katie Heinen

Kristina Paris

In memory of Sister Mel Marie Stoll

Cheryl Orgas & William Meeker

Sr. John Ann Zettelmaier

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Honors and Memorials, cont'd.

In honor of Lenore Tesch

Eugene & Lori Batchelder

In memory of Ed Wagner

Linda Wagner

In honor of Lesaffre Yeast

Timothy Turton & Kelly Hoglund

In memory of Marian H. Yoder

Donald Yoder

In honor of Sister John Ann Zettelmaier

Susan Johnston

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

Elm II

Catherine and Walter Lindsay Foundation Fund

Nonprofit Management Fund

Spirit Gifts–SMS Fund

Sunrise Foundation Fund

**Donations through United Way
of Greater Milwaukee**

Wendy Huot

Ted & Mary Kellner

Harold & Leann Mester

\$10,000 and up

Bader Philanthropies

Charles E. Benidt Foundation Inc.

Alvin and Marion Birnschein Foundation

Forest County Potawatomi Foundation

Industries for the Blind and

Visually Impaired, Inc.

Catherine and Walter Lindsay

Foundation Fund (GMF)

Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation Inc.

Melitta S. Pick Charitable Trust

PwC Charitable Foundation

Richard & Phyllis Robbins

Francie Luke Silverman Foundation

A.O. Smith Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous

Anon Charitable Trust

Batchelder Family Charitable Fund

Catholic Community Foundation

Chase Family Foundation

The Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation

Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation

Jerome and Dorothy Holz Family Foundation

Ladish Co. Foundation

Katherine Schneider

Stackner Family Foundation

Wispect Foundation

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous
Bartolotta Management Group (Care-a-Lotta)
Beyond Vision
Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation
Sue Bronson
Cornerstone Foundation
 of Northeastern Wisconsin
Elm II (GMF)
Joanne Gerszewski
Greater Milwaukee Association of
 REALTORS® Youth Foundation Inc.
B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation
William & Sandy Heitz Family Foundation
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation
Ann Johnston
Ted & Mary Kellner
Kenosha Noon Lions Foundation
Harold & Leann Mester
New Berlin Lions Club Foundation, Inc.
Nonprofit Management Fund (GMF)
Jennie Olson Foundation
Cheryl Orgas & William Meeker
Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust
Janet & Randall Peterson
The L.E. Phillips Family Foundation Inc.
Rich & Diana Pine
Saint John's Communities Visual
 Impairment Fund
Margit Schatzman & Stephen Bleksley
Michael Schiek
Spirit Gifts–SMS Fund (GMF)

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

Theodore Strupp & Marybeth Jacobson
E.C. Styberg Foundation Inc.
Sunrise Foundation Fund (GMF)
Kim Tesch
Robert & Jenny Watson
WE Energies Foundation
Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation
Donald Yoder

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Bay View Lions Club Foundation Inc.
Gary & Helen Brashear
Cleary-Kumm Foundation
Beverly Doherty & Thomas Hamilton
Maura Eggert
The Albert J. and Flora H. Ellinger Foundation
Fontana Bigfoot Lions Club
Frank & Susan Gedelman
Vidya Girish
Goyke & Associates,
 Gary R. Goyke, Principal
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Doris & Ed Heiser
Independence First
Neil Jaehnert
Janet & Jim Kiekhofer
Alice Massa
Donald Natzke & Erica Weise
PPC Foundation

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\$500 - \$999, cont'd.

Erica Reib
Ritz Holman LLP
Mark & Joan Schneider
Sue & Larry Sebranek
Town Bank
William Wagner & Jean Schott-Wagner

\$100 - \$499

American Online Giving Foundation Inc.
Dora & David Behling
Michael & Luann Berns
Jaclyn Borchardt
Tim Bouquet & Victoria Vogl
Kathleen Bruening
Robert & Wendy Buettner
Ida Burdick
Sandra Christensen
Jerry & Alice Davis
Lois Davis
Terri & Michael Davis
Maureen & William Dowling
Cliona Draper & Joel Rast
Richard & Mary Fanyo
Jeff Fletcher & Margaret Meeker
Michelle Gauthier
Kevin Gerke
Beth & Mike Giacobassi
Richard Goessner
Norman & Jennifer Gouveia
Beatrice Hahn
Laura Hall

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

Mary Ann & Duane Hand
Tom & Katie Heinen
Megan K. Hindman
Andrew & Paula Holman
Wendy Huot
Andrew Jambura & Quinn Cory
Will Janisch
Terie Johnson & OJ Johnson
Susan & John Kaminsky
Gary Kendziorski
Elliott King
Susan Knorr
Dawn Kocaja
Kim Koch
Dale & Judy Kuehn
Pam LaSalle
Dan & Helen Lococo
Kathryn Lorrigan
Christopher & Tracy Meeker
Mary Meller-King & Gregory King
Kevin Meyers
Scott & Carol Paulson
Stephanie Pribyl
Douglas Ranger
John & Janice Raymond
Katherine Schill
Neil Schultz Johnson
Minna Smith
Nancy Sowa
Glen Stacey Memorial Fund
Lenore Tesch

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

Tracy Thomas
Tiffany & Brad Tinsey
Guadalupe Torrijos
Timothy Turton & Kelly Hoglund
Linda Vincent & Alberto Herrera Jr.
Linda Wagner
Carolyn K. Washburne
Elizabeth Waterfall & Emeric Rokay
Waterford Lions Foundation
Patricia Ann Watson
Jennifer & Dan Wenzel
Heather West
Wisconsin Council of the
 Blind & Visually Impaired
Sue Wood
Max Yela & Cat Loomis
Donald & Janet Zoltan

Up to \$99

Anonymous
Celeste Baldassare
Barbara Beckert
Tom & Cheri Briscoe
Amelinda Burich
Mary Callen
Andy Catanzaro
Judith Christofferson
Constance Crooks
Karen Duerr
Mindie Feist

Up to \$99, cont'd.

Bridgett Gonzalez
Joyce Guinn
Sarah Heesen
Allan & Sandra Heikkinen
Xinyue Hippe
Stephanie Holt
Susan Johnston
Marsha Krosnosky
Patricia Lidicker
Zarina Mohd Shah
Vincent Muraglia
Kristina Paris
Rachel Ramos
Karen Riccobono
Caroline Rose
Jean Salzer
Gloria Santilli
Kim Schultz
Rita Schwalbach
Linsey Sieger
Shauna Singh Baldwin
Connie Sleger
The UK Online Giving Foundation
Jean Wagemann
Bridget Wessel
Sr. John Ann Zettelmaier