



Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.
Providing alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read
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Autumn 2026

Save the Date!

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, November 5th**, 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 are on our website. Register by October 21st. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Braille Games 2026: Another Year of Tremendous Collaboration



Photo of child playing assembly game

ABLE's collaboration with Beyond Vision, the Milwaukee Public Museum, Vision Forward and the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library took a new turn this year. Beyond Vision hosted us at their facility in West Allis on May 6, 2026.

Seven of their blind staff were mentors at the games as a part of their work day. This year's games were all about work. Children were so excited to participate in an assembly game, a game about smart ways to spend money, and a game illustrating how to be a call center staff member. All games were adapted using braille as

an integral part of participation in the experiences. Also children were to write a cover letter or to write their strengths. Sam, a high school freshman, wrote one of the best cover letters I have ever heard asking for a position at ABLE's Sound Center as an Audio Engineer. I can't wait to see that letter in about eight years! Another student, JT, talked about being a music attorney. Children were very engaged in asking blind adults about their careers.



Photo of children learning money game

Children from four Wisconsin counties attended Braille Games, including thirteen students from the Wisconsin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Free Book Program

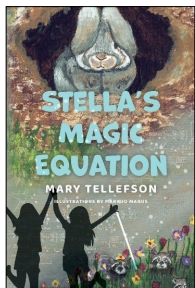


Photo of book cover: Stella's Magic Equation

With the generous support of a grant from the Haydon Family Opportunity Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, nearly 80 print and braille books were given out in the first of a three-book series by Mary Tellefson, *Stella's Magic Equation*. This book, featuring main characters who are blind and hearing impaired, is a heartwarming early chapter book (ages 7–11) about friendship, empathy and inclusion. Full of fun and quirky characters this first of three stories in the collection is a heart-filled, whimsical, and magical story about mistakes, friendship, making amends, and the equations that connect us all.

The audio version of *Stella's Magic Equation*, read in ABLE's Sound Center, is available now through the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library. ABLE is now transcribing the second book in this series, *Saving Fortissima*.

Celebrating Our Partnership With the Wehr Nature Center In Franklin, Wisconsin



Photo of ABL group at Wehr Observation Blind listening for birds

Wehr Nature Center and ABLE have been working together for nearly 18 months to create accessible documents for blind and low vision individuals. ABLE created a tactile map of the Nature Center grounds, including five hiking paths and trail descriptions in English and Spanish braille. These are available at the Nature Center. Audio trail descriptions in both English and Spanish can be found on Wehr's website. These accessible documents were introduced to the blindness community the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd. Twelve people from Blind Outdoor Leisure Development and a dozen people from ABLE came out that weekend to participate in the blind "birdability" event held annually throughout the whole country. Birding is one of those activities that is very much enjoyed by ear. We are also excited to share with you that Braille Games will be held at Wehr in 2027.

Havenwoods State Forest Partnership

We have embarked on a new partnership with Havenwoods State Forest to assist with braille and tactile signage for the Braille Trail being developed in this beautiful forest, located right in the heart of Milwaukee. This trail will be introduced to the community on October 17, 2026. Engage with interactive activities and community organizations providing services and opportunities to people who are blind or low vision from 10 a.m.—12 p.m. Acknowledgement, ribbon cutting and cake will be at 11am. The Braille Trail will include audio and tactile elements along the trail with text in Unified English Braille. The tactile elements focus on Havenwoods history, habitat, flora and fauna. The Braille Trail is a looped 1/3 mile trail. Havenwoods State Forest is located at 6141 N. Hopkins St., Milwaukee, WI 53209.

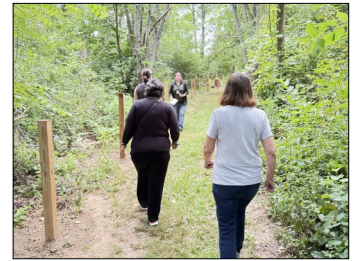


Photo of people walking a wooded nature trail in Havenwoods State Park

Meet our New Board Member



Photo of ABLE board member Stephen McManus

We are pleased to welcome Stephen McManus, an experienced litigator and educator, to our Board of Directors. In addition to developing a successful litigation career and creating McManus & Associates LLC, Steve served in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's

(JAG) Corps for many years. Steve previously served as a board member for the Wisconsin Coalition of Virtual School Families, and volunteers for Irish Fest. He and his wife Moira live in Elm Grove, WI, where they raised eight children. We're so glad you're with us, Steve!

Many Thanks for Your Support

We at ABLE are grateful for all the ways you support our mission, be that using our services, volunteering your time, donating money or spreading the word about our services.

We want to remind you that some people may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution. If you are age 70½ or older, you may direct up to \$111,000 in 2026—or \$222,000 for married couples filing jointly with individual retirement accounts—from a traditional IRA directly to qualified charities without paying income tax on the distribution. For donors taking Required Minimum Distributions, Qualified Charitable Distributions can be a particularly effective way to reduce taxable income.