



Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.
 Providing alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read
 Central Library Building 803 W. Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 53233
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Spring 2018

Volunteers, The Spirit of ABLE!

In honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Month, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude for our vibrant, competent, passionate volunteers. This team of women and men are at the heart of our mission, providing alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read. Whether it be a reader in our ABLE Sound Center, a certified brailist, a volunteer bursting and binding materials to assemble braille books, a board member, an audio reviewer, an office volunteer doing any number of tasks—or any of the other *many* services our volunteers contribute—this team is vital to all that we do at ABLE, making a difference in the lives of those who are blind or print disabled every single day! —Cheryl Orgas



Meet a few of our volunteers! Pictured clockwise from top left: Chris Miota recording, Barb Volbrecht sound editing, Sarah and Sam Zellmer at Braille Games, Antonio Fernandez Gonzalez creating tactiles, Kris Drollinger bursting braille pages, Lenore Tesch binding a braille book.

To help us honor and recognize our volunteers, come to our ABLE Luncheon on Tuesday, May 1st, 2018, at the Italian Conference Center, 631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Complimentary parking and wheelchair access. Register at awards@ablenow.org. Details on our website. The registration deadline has been extended to April 26th. Our volunteers receiving awards this year are:

Barbara Althoen: 20,000 hours, Braille
 Megan Hindman: 250 hours, Audio
 Janet Kiekhofer: 750 hours, Office/Braille
 Tom Littellmann: 500 hours, Audio

Sue Roberts: 1,500 hours, Braille
 Tony Szymborski: 500 hours, Braille
 Barbara Volbrecht: 250 hours, Audio
 Leonard Zaworski: 750 hours, Braille

One Very Special Little Lamb



Peanut of Blind Faith Farm is the true story of a tiny blind lamb that was born on Blind Faith Farm in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Though she faced innumerable challenges, Peanut has been a joyful addition to the hobby farm of Jim and Laura Thompson. Mostly by trial and error, she learned the skills she would need to survive. Her sheer determination and a safe and healthy environment won the day, and despite her challenges, Peanut became a happy and productive member of her flock.



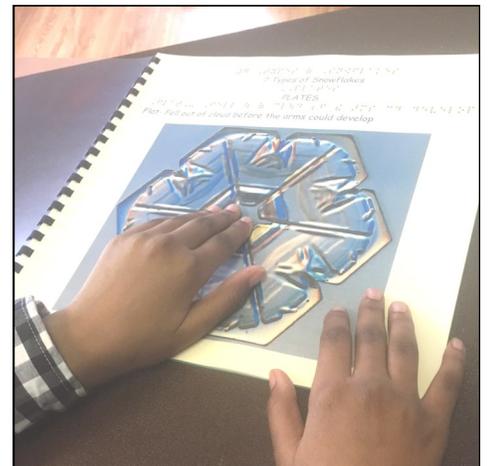
Jim and Laura were so delighted with Peanut that Jim wrote a children's story about this sweet, spunky blind lamb. Knowing that this story would be so important to share with blind children, Jim initiated a fundraising campaign so that ABLE could produce 500 copies of this book in braille and distribute it free-of-charge to children and families throughout the whole country. We are so excited to share the news that we have had a successful campaign! We are also fortunate to have Peanut's mom, Laura, read the book in our ABLE Sound Center. Soon this audio book will also be available to 7,000 patrons of the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and 550,000 patrons nationwide through the National Library Service.

"Peanut, with her keen sense of smell, learned how to find the tallest grass. With her sharp hearing, she was able to hear when an apple fell from an apple tree and hurry to the spot where it landed for a tasty snack."

-From *Peanut of Blind Faith Farm*

Tactiles for Blind Children Tell a Powerful Story

This winter, ABLE's Tactile and Production Manager, Matt Scholtes, designed a tactile book of snowflake shapes for an adventure nature field trip for the blind and visually impaired students of Milwaukee Public Schools. Gretchen Kapperman, a Teacher of the Visually Impaired with MPS, said the children very much enjoyed feeling and looking at the snowflakes, and so did the adult educators. One child said this book was "cold!" (Did you know that means pretty darn awesome in middle school language?) Regina Miller of The Urban Ecology Center, another collaborative partner with ABLE, said, "The Urban Ecology Center and Treehaven (a residential environmental education center in Tomahawk, WI) share a common goal of getting kids in touch with nature. This year we partnered with Milwaukee Public Schools to take middle school children who are blind or visually impaired to Treehaven for a three-day winter adventure. This was a great time in nature that none of us will forget."



Did you know that there are seven different snowflake shapes?