



# Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2019

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

## The Year in Review

The vision of ABLE is simple and straightforward: that everyone has access to the printed word. With the support of generous donors and committed volunteers and staff, 2019 was another year of progress toward that vision.

Since 2015, ABLE has been recording audio books in our own state-of-the-art Sound Center with a quality that meets the digital recording standards of the National Library Service for the Blind and Printed Disabled (NLS). In 2019 ABLE produced 51 audio books. Audio books recorded by ABLE circulated 7,861 times in 2019—more than double the number in 2018!

We have committed significant resources to creating more user-friendly tactile diagrams—raised line drawings that can be felt and understood with the fingers. An unexpected benefit of this is the reputation we are developing—within and far beyond Wisconsin—for the innovation and quality of our tactiles. ABLE presented a workshop session entitled “Principles of Tactile Design” at the 2019 Midwest Braille conference in Madison, Wisconsin to a group of braille/tactile transcribers. The session was very well-received and reinforced the feasibility of our plan to market our tactiles nationally.

ABLE’s signature service is our quick turn-around braille and tactile materials for blind students, having served seven school districts in 2019.

Our long-standing collaboration with other community organizations serving the blindness community was in evidence at the annual Braille Games, a day-long event that provides activities emphasizing the importance and relevance of braille for blind children. ABLE planned and carried out this year’s event with Vision Forward, the Milwaukee Public Museum, and the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library. Employees from Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Beyond Vision also participated as mentors and role models for the young braille users, illustrating the use of braille in everyday life.

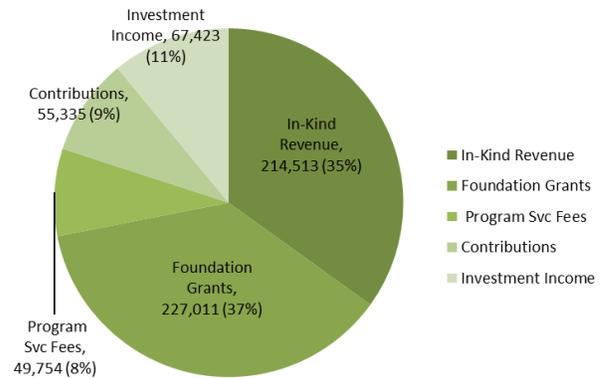
ABLE continues to collaborate with community groups that wish to improve access for customers/visitors who are blind or visually impaired. We have broadened our services to some of the very popular Milwaukee area festivals by creating numerous audio options to access the schedule for each event. We also partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to make job readiness materials accessible to the blind and visually impaired. In addition to serving organizations, ABLE continued to meet individual needs, transcribing materials such as a cell phone manual, and private letters. We are one of the few organizations in the U.S. that continues to respond to these individual requests.

# Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

## AUDITED FINANCIALS 2019

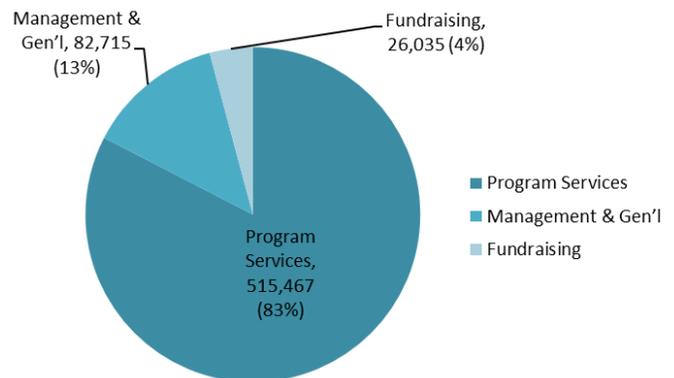
### Support & Revenue

Total Support & Revenue	\$ 614,036
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 214,513
Foundation Grants	\$ 227,011
Program Svc Fees	\$ 49,754
Contributions	\$ 55,335
Investment Income	\$ 67,423



### Expenses

Total Expenses	\$ 624,217
Program Services	\$ 515,467
Management & Gen'l	\$ 82,715
Fundraising	\$ 26,035



### Staff

Cheryl Orgas  
Executive Director

Shawn Brimley Braille Assistant	Sean Paulson Tactile Assistant
Kathleen Bruening Braille Specialist	Karen Duerr Office Manager
Claire Egan Braille Manager	Richard Robbins Audio Specialist & Network Administrator
Andrew Jambura Audio Manager	Matthew Scholtes Tactile & Production Manager
Dylan Shanahan Audio Specialist	

### Board of Directors

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