



# Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. Annual Report 2020

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

## The Year in Review

As with most organizations, it is impossible for ABLE to look back at 2020 without acknowledging the overarching role played by COVID-19. While creating numerous challenges, the pandemic also resulted in opportunities to strengthen our mission.

Again in 2020, ABLE collaborated with the Milwaukee Public Museum, Vision Forward, and the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library to put on Braille Games, a day-long event that provides activities emphasizing the importance and relevance of braille for blind children. Employees from Beyond Vision participated as mentors and role models for the young braille users, illustrating the use of braille in everyday life.

As the Milwaukee Public Schools and other districts implemented distance learning in response to COVID-19, ABLE continued to partner with them to ensure that blind students had the learning materials they needed. Whether our team of staff and volunteers was working from home or from our offices, we continued to provide braille and tactiles (raised line drawings) for the blind students we serve—regardless of where they were receiving instruction due to the pandemic.

In addition to our ongoing work, in June ABLE began creating packets of brailled enrichment/learning activities and sending them directly to blind students monthly. With input from parents and teachers, we included resources such as readings to improve comprehension and speed, children's books, and activities and games that could be played with students' family members. Packets were mailed directly to blind students, and parents received print versions of the materials so they could follow along with their blind children and help to facilitate their continued learning.

For several months in 2020, we were unable to access our Sound Center—located in the lower level of Milwaukee's Central Library—as the Library building was closed. Our staff, however, continued to edit books at home that had already been recorded, and in late July we were able to welcome volunteer narrators back to the ABLE Sound Center to resume the recording of audio books.

Although we were forced to cancel our highly anticipated 55th anniversary luncheon and volunteer recognition event, we recognized our volunteers in a variety of ways. We continue to be so grateful for our amazing volunteers who donated 6,800 hours of service in 2020.

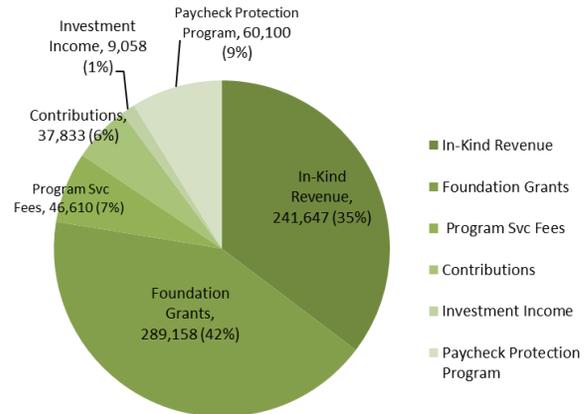
In addition to serving organizations, ABLE continued to meet individual transcription needs. We are one of the few organizations in the U.S. that continues to respond to these individual requests.

# Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc.

## AUDITED FINANCIALS 2020

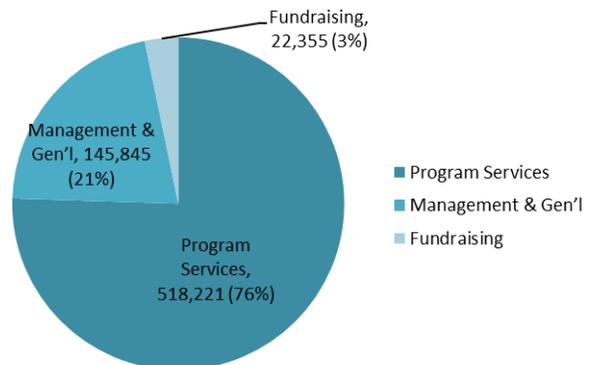
### Support & Revenue

Total Support & Revenue	\$ 684,406
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 241,647
Foundation Grants	\$ 289,158
Program Service Fees	\$ 46,610
Contributions	\$ 37,833
Investment Income	\$ 9,058
Paycheck Protection Program	\$ 60,100



### Expenses

Total Expenses	\$ 686,421
Program Services	\$ 518,221
Management & Gen'l	\$ 145,845
Fundraising	\$ 22,355



### Staff

Cheryl Orgas  
Executive Director

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

### Board of Directors

Don Natzke, President  
Michelle Gran, Vice President  
Diana Pine, Secretary  
Robert Watson, Treasurer  
Robin Brisco  
Carlos Garcia  
Sarah Heesen  
Elliott King  
Dawn Koceja  
Dale Kuehn  
Brian Mason  
Erica Reib  
Zarina Mohd Shah, Ex Officio