



## Back to School Highlights

The approach of autumn is a time when students, families and teachers are gearing up for another busy school year! ABLE, however, has been preparing for this school year for a long time now. Our dedicated volunteers have been working on putting into braille assignments that are needed for Milwaukee Public Schools' 2013/2014 school year. From Journeys 2012 textbook to braille and tactile engineering materials, our braille team has been immersed in these activities since the fall of 2012. In our audio program we are completing library books for The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library that will be good reading material for blind or visually impaired students.

In 2012, almost 50 braille and audio volunteers transcribed or recorded nearly 183,000 pages into alternative formats. These tremendously dedicated women and men gave to ABLE a total of 7,295 volunteer hours providing alternative ways for blind and print disabled individuals to read.

## School Work Moves Into the Young's Home

Neil Young has been visually impaired most of his life and has used ABLE's services since the 1970s when it was under the name Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped. But he came to depend on ABLE even more seven years ago when he and his wife Lijuana became parents and decided to homeschool their daughter Carol who is 9 years old and entering fifth grade this year.

ABLE's volunteer readers record training manuals  
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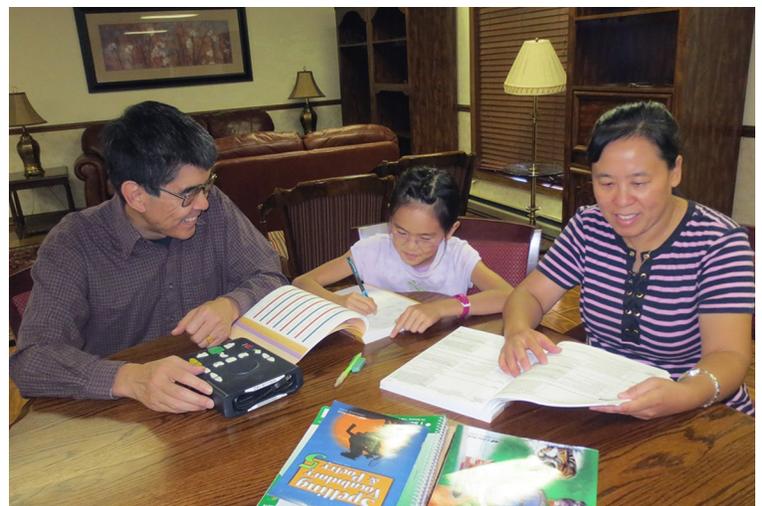
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for Neil, which include lesson plans organized by subject and teacher preparation instructions.

Without ABLE "my input and participation would have been very limited," Neil said. As it is, ABLE allows Neil to participate in Carol's education at a level equal to that of sighted homeschooling parents.

Neil is very pleased with the services he has received from ABLE. He especially appreciates having the same reader for much of his material, which keeps things consistent. In addition, ABLE can customize to meet his needs. Neil has made suggestions to Richard, who handles audio services, about separating things so that they are easy to navigate with his digital player; Richard passes this feedback on to readers.

"I have gotten to know several of the ABLE staff. They are very helpful and accommodating," Neil said, "I am very happy with the product."



*Neil, Carol and Lijuana Young work with audio lessons prepared by ABLE staff and volunteers*

We offer our deepest gratitude to all our individual, corporate and foundation donors for your financial support, giving us the ability to provide alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read.

### Welcome, Claire!

Claire Egan has been a teacher of the visually impaired for over 37 years and a brailist for ABLE since 2011. She retired from teaching but most definitely is not retired! She is now our day-to-day brailist for the Milwaukee Public Schools. Given her in-depth knowledge of what children reading braille need and her expanding knowledge of braille transcription, Ms. Egan is a perfect addition to our staff team.

“I am a braille enthusiast and thrilled to be part of the ABLE team,” Claire said.

### 2013 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon a Delightful Success



*At ABLE's volunteer recognition luncheon on May 8, 2013, our Milwaukee Public School Students offered an enthusiastic performance saying "Hats off to ABLE Volunteers" with a hat made especially for every volunteer who attended the luncheon. Thank you, MPS students!*

### Thank you, Eleanor!

One of our amazing volunteers, Eleanor Hoehn, is retiring after nearly forty years of volunteer time to ABLE—over 9,000 hours of dedication. Her conscientiousness in giving many hours to dependable in-home audio recording, work at our downtown office, and professional audio training epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism. “My association with ABLE was wonderful and I am glad I had the experience,” Eleanor said.

Thank you Eleanor for making a difference in many people's lives.

### Do You Know Someone Experiencing Vision Loss?

If so, please remind them they are not alone! Vision loss is becoming increasingly common due to this country's aging population, but with the help of ABLE, vision loss does not mean loss of access to the books, magazines and newspapers they have always enjoyed. If you know friends or family members that are finding it difficult or impossible to read print material, encourage them to call us to find out whether they are eligible for our services. Our dedicated volunteer readers can record anything they need, and our fees are very reasonable.

### Brailled Menus Now Available!

Thanks to a grant from the Shorewood Men's Club and the hard work of our ABLE volunteers, braille menus are now available in Shorewood restaurants. When you dine out in Shorewood, please thank the restaurant for having these braille menus available.

Coming soon: braille menus in West Bend because of the generous financial support and coordination of the West Bend Lioness/Lions Club.