



**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  
 (414) 286-3039 www.ablenow.org

Autumn 2024

## Honoring Our Fabulous Volunteers



*Photo of Board President Michelle Gran at podium*

ABLE's October 24th Volunteer Award and Benefit Luncheon was a tremendous success this year! We had 10% more registrations and received more sponsorships than ever before. We were pleased to have in attendance teachers and students from Milwaukee Public Schools. The students warmed our hearts with their thank you notes, presented in the style of the Jimmy Fallon show. A recipient from a neighboring school district attended with his mother and grandmother.

Our main speaker was Bennett Lehman, a high school junior from Jefferson High School, who sang the praises of our ABLE volunteers. Bennett said, "ABLE



*Photo of Bennett Lehman*

transcribed all my math tests and even some of my chemistry tests. My paraprofessional and I can always count on ABLE to be precise on test day!"



*Photo of Leadership Award recipients Julie Hapeman (left) and Zarina Mohd Shah (center), with Cheryl Orgas (right)*

We awarded leadership awards to two amazing women:

Zarina Mohd Shah, retired Library Services Manager at Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, has been an exceptional partner, collaborator and leader. The ABLE Team was so fortunate to work alongside Zarina in bringing audio books to blind and print disabled individuals.

Julie Hapeman, Ed.D., Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist with Milwaukee Public Schools, always puts students first as she finds ways for ABLE and the Milwaukee Public Schools to work together so that students can thrive.

Many thanks to the following dedicated volunteers whose milestone service achievements we celebrated:

250 plus hours: Robin Christiansen, Audio	1,000 plus hours: Kathy Kerrigan, Audio
500 plus hours: Craig Pierce, Audio	1,500 plus hours: Dale Kuehn, Tactiles
500 plus hours: Janet Zoltan, Audio	1,500 plus hours: Diana Pine, Audio
750 plus hours: John Lonsdale, Audio	

In 2025, ABLE will celebrate its 60th anniversary! Plan to celebrate with us next October. Let's break all attendance and sponsorship records!

## And Thanks to Each of You!

It is through the generosity of *every one* of our donors that we are able to continue our programs and services that enhance literacy, dignity, productivity and independence for people in our community who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled. We'll be most grateful for your generous year-end donation! Please use the enclosed envelope, or donate securely through our website: [www.ablenow.org](http://www.ablenow.org).

## Tosa's All-City Read

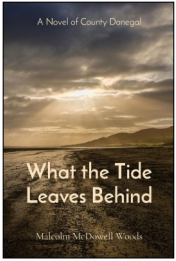


Photo of book cover:  
*What the Tide Leaves Behind*

ABLE, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, and Magnify LLC, together with Tosa's All-City Read, are making books available for blind and print disabled individuals. In ABLE's State of the Art Sound Center, audio volunteer Margaret Casey read aloud *What the Tide Leaves Behind* by Malcolm McDowell Woods, and audio volunteer Merete Mohs read aloud *Crossing the Pressure Line* by Laura Anne Bird. Blind and print disabled individuals will be able to read these books alongside their Tosa neighbors as they participate in the many planned activities in Wauwatosa beginning in February of 2025.

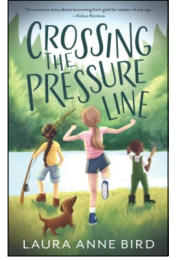


Photo of book cover:  
*Crossing the Pressure Line*

## The Wonders of Wisconsin at the Milwaukee Public Museum

Braille Games, held on May 16th, was an amazing success. Thirty-five children from Milwaukee Public Schools and ten surrounding school districts participated, including five first-timers from the Wisconsin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Studying leaves with braille labels, writing stories about life in the "olden days" and learning about animals native to Wisconsin were some of the fun activities. The braille and tactile book *The Wonders of Wisconsin*, written by Milwaukee Public Museum staff, produced by ABLE staff and given to all participants, has amazing tactile graphics, including animals, different types of leaves, and items used in the early 1900s.



Photo of Braille Games participants learning about trees and their leaves

ABLE collaborated with the Milwaukee Public Museum, Vision Forward, the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, and blind adult mentors from Beyond Vision to put on Braille Games. Thank you to the Glen Stacey Fund for funding Braille Games and also to PricewaterhouseCoopers for a Reimagination grant that supported Braille Games and also made *The Wonders of Wisconsin* available to blind children throughout Wisconsin.

## Helping Children Build Their Braille Library

Thank you to the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation for funding braille copies of *The Adventures of Marshmallow and Peter* by Peter James Heath, and *My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay* by Cari Best.

*The Adventures of Marshmallow and Peter* was written by a blind second-grader. The book explains the special relationship between Peter and his white cane (named Marshmallow), which is so important in giving Peter independence and helping him participate in activities like hiking, karate, piano lessons and soccer camp. *My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay* features a blind first grader whose diverse group of friends cheer her on when she achieves her goal of running in a race.

*Marshmallow* and *My Three Best Friends* are both dual print and braille books.