



**HERE, THERE, AND  
EVERYWHERE**

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

**ACB**  
• • •

**American Council  
of the Blind**

Together for a bright future

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Dan Spoone**  
*President*



**Eric Bridges**  
*Executive Director*

In 2022, ACB transitioned from a pandemic-driven, virtual world to a hybrid environment, meeting our members, friends and partners wherever they were most comfortable.

During July, ACB held its first hybrid convention, with live, in-person events in Omaha, Nebraska, and meetings and events held on Zoom and broadcast via ACB Media. Members participated from across the nation and around the world. All ACB members had the opportunity to vote with fully accessible “Vote Now” ballots. It was the first chance for so many of our members and friends to get together in person. You could feel the excitement throughout the event.

In partnership with the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), we were able to provide 25 scholarships with a combined value over \$97,000. Of the scholarship winners, 16 were able to attend the convention in person, participating in a variety of activities.

In the area of advocacy, ACB was instrumental in introducing two new bills. The Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act takes a huge



step forward in promoting accessibility in the digital platforms that are so important to our quality of life. The Communications, Video and Technology Accessibility Act was introduced to expand equal access in broadcast media, streaming and communications for the deaf and blind communities. ACB continues to work to improve accessibility for at-home COVID tests and promote equal access to the ballot box with election ballot return for mail-in voting.

ACB celebrated the second annual Audio Description Awards Gala with the first AD People's Choice Award, which went to the show "Obi-Wan Kenobi." Ewan McGregor, Obi-Wan Kenobi himself, gave testimony, and Stevie Wonder presented one of the awards. This gala confirms just how far ACB has led the blind and low vision community in the advancement of audio description.

ACB Media hosted more than 20 state affiliate conventions. Some were virtual only; some were hybrid. A few were solely in-person. Many were broadcast over ACB Media's live and special channels and heard across the country.

The ACB Community Events platform celebrated its second year and surpassed 10,000 events. The ACB Community provides our affiliates, committees, members, corporate partners and friends an opportunity to connect in a welcoming environment. The most uplifting event took place over Thanksgiving. The Friendsgiving event on Thanksgiving Day always reminds us of the true spirit of ACB - the joy of connection and being there for each other. It was fantastic to hear the stories of how our ACB family has made a difference in so many lives.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- Advocacy efforts led to the introduction of the Website and Software Application Accessibility Act, paving the way for digital equality, and the Communications, Video and Technology Accessibility Act, creating the framework for equal access to broadcast and streaming media.
- Advocacy with National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) leads to the first accessible COVID home test for smart phones.
- ACB's community platform held its 10,000<sup>th</sup> event, providing a welcoming environment for the Blind and Low Vision community to gather.
- ACB Media Network produced podcasts with over 250,000 downloads on topics of interest to the blind population around the world.
- Held the first truly hybrid national convention in Omaha and on The ACB Media network with 150 breakout sessions, tours and a banquet speech from disability activist, Judy Heumann.
- Hosted the 2nd annual ACB AD Awards Gala featuring presentations from Ewan McGregor and Stevie Wonder.
- ACB members contribute over 1 million dollars in volunteer hours.



# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$700,242
Program Fees	\$543,589
Membership Dues	\$49,255
Net Investment Return	(\$726,364)
Other Income	\$885,246
Thrift Stores	\$206,896
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,658,864</b>

## ASSETS

Current Assets	\$575,221
Investments	\$4,321,504
Other Assets	\$166,151
Property & Equipment	\$57,835
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,120,711</b>

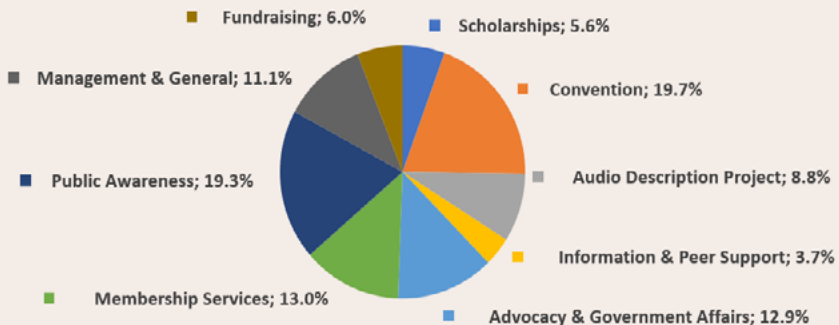
## EXPENSES

Program Services	\$2,072,612
Management & General	\$278,141
Fundraising	\$149,569
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,500,322</b>
<b>Total Net</b>	<b>(\$454,985)</b>

## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$555,210
Net Assets (Unrestricted)	\$3,253,376
Net assets (Restricted)	\$1,312,125
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,120,711</b>

## ACB Program Expenses





# ACB PROGRAM UPDATES

## ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Worked closely with federal, state and corporate partners ensuring the healthcare system worked for people with disabilities, advocated for accessible absentee voting, increased availability of audio-described video content, created greater awareness for accessible information and communications technologies, improving access to transportation and the pedestrian right-of-way. Collaborated with constant contact to enhance the accessibility of their platform allowing emails to be fully accessible with content headings.

## MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION SERVICES

Affiliates were strengthened through support and formalized leadership training. Through ACB's community platform over 4,800 community events which provided social, educational, and topic-driven support. More than 38,600 volunteer hours were contributed.

## CONVENTION

The 61st convention was ACB's first hybrid event. Eligible members had the opportunity to vote on proposed resolutions and elect board members during the business meeting. There were over 150 workshops, seminars, and business meetings; individuals attended sessions live or listened later to podcasted sessions.

## AUDIO DESCRIPTION PROJECT (ADP)

A broad range of activities were sponsored to build awareness of audio description. There were 195 virtual national park site visits completed in collaboration with the UniD project directed by the University of Hawaii, ACB served on the FCC's disability advisory committee, and conducted the audio description training institute.



## **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Significantly increased Spanish language content for events. The audio description awards gala was broadcast live on YouTube and Pluto TV. ACB media's 10 radio stations reached 308,700 listeners and 34 podcast feeds were downloaded 256,300 times.

## **ACB SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Awarded \$97,500 across 25 scholarships to blind post-secondary students ranging from \$1,200 to \$7,500. JPMorgan Chase leadership fellows and DKM first-timer awards helped to foster future leaders through mentoring, training, and peer development. They were able to connect with one another, discuss issues of importance, and develop leadership skills by attending the convention.

## **INFORMATION AND PEER SUPPORT**

Provided vital information and referral services to those experiencing vision loss and seeking support in areas including accessible technology services, daily living skills, and advocacy-related inquiries. These services have been expanded over the past three years by building a virtual peer support community event platform, which provided over 100,000 individual connections.

# STATE AFFILIATES

Alabama Council of the Blind

Arizona Council of the Blind

Arkansas Council of the Blind

California Council of the Blind

Colorado Council of the Blind and  
Visually Impaired

ACB of Connecticut

Delaware Council of the Blind and  
Visually Impaired

District of Columbia Council of  
the Blind

Florida Council of the Blind

Georgia Council of the Blind

Hawaii Association of the Blind

Illinois Council of the Blind

ACB of Indiana

Iowa Council of the United Blind

Kansas Association for the Blind &  
Visually Impaired

Bluegrass Council of the Blind

Kentucky Council of the Blind

Louisiana Council of the Blind

ACB of Maine

ACB of Maryland

Bay State Council of the Blind

Michigan Council of the Blind &  
Visually Impaired

ACB of Minnesota

Mississippi Council of the Blind

Missouri Council of the Blind

ACB of Nebraska

Nevada Council of the Blind

New Jersey Council of the Blind

ACB of New Mexico

ACB of New York

North Carolina Council of the Blind

North Dakota Association of  
the Blind

ACB of Ohio

Oklahoma Council of the Blind

ACB of Oregon

Pennsylvania Council of the Blind

South Dakota Association of  
the Blind

Tennessee Council of the Blind

ACB of Texas

Utah Council of the Blind

Vermont Council of the Blind

ACB of Virginia

Washington Council of the Blind

Mountain State Council of the Blind

ACB of Wisconsin

Wyoming Council of the Blind



# SPECIAL-INTEREST AFFILIATES

Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss

American Association of Blind Teachers

American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys

ACB Diabetics in Action

ACB Families

ACB Government Employees

ACB Lions

ACB Next Generation

ACB Radio Amateurs

ACB Students

Blind Information Technology Specialists

Blind LGBT Pride International

Braille Revival League

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International

Friends-in-Art of ACB

Guide Dog Users, Inc.

Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs

Library Users of America

Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America

Visually Impaired Veterans of America

ACB wishes to extend a special thanks to all our generous contributors with particular thanks to the following foundations:

Aid Association for the Blind of the District of Columbia

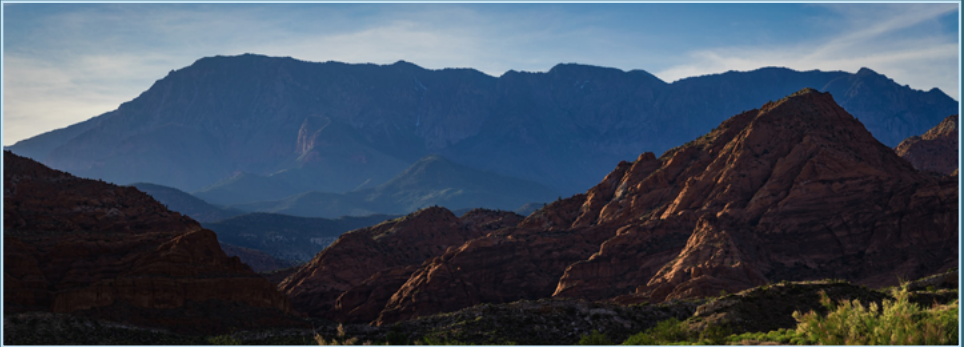
Delta Gamma Foundation

National Park Services

Readers Digest Partners for Sight

The Gibney Family Foundation

Dr. Scholl Foundation



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