BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE SUCCESS

2019 Annual Report

American Council of the Blind
Together for a bright future
The American Council of the Blind strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life for all blind and visually impaired people.
CORE VALUES

Integrity & Honesty
Respect
Collaboration
Flexibility
Initiative
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on our accomplishments of 2019, the moments that stand strongest are the countless hours of preparation our leaders and volunteers undertook in order to lay the foundation for our future success. Amelia Earhart said it best when she proclaimed, “Preparation is rightly two-thirds of any adventure.” Her words are quite prophetic as we remain flexible toward whatever adventures lay on the other side of the horizon.

2019 marked a pivotal year for the American Council of the Blind. For the first time in many years, we ended the year with a net gain and significant growth in our reserves and newly established endowment. The strategic planning we underwent from 2016-2018 identified nine critical mission areas that we were able to lift up through newly formed steering committees. These nine initiatives provide the tangible framework for our mission, guided by our vision and core values.

In order to assist with building up this framework, we welcomed a new director of advocacy and governmental affairs, who helped mold our agenda and strengthen our influence on Capitol Hill. And we made a significant investment in our greatest asset, which is that of our ACB members, by hiring a full-time membership coordinator.

ACB is proud to continue its collaborative approach toward finding real solutions that improve accessibility and inclusion for Americans who are blind and visually impaired. This architectural approach to advocacy is rooted in our initial design, building a house where all are welcome. Advocacy is at the heart of our mission, and this heart beat strongly in 2019 as we secured access in the sky, on the Internet, on our streets, and in our homes.
Furthermore, through expanding our Information, Referral and Peer Support activity, we were able to not simply advocate on a macro level, but personally touch the lives of so many individuals struggling to overcome obstacles in search of independence and opportunity. Collectively, this work has allowed us to feel the pulse of our community, drafting an agenda that amplifies and respects the voices of those we serve.

Of course, no success will come without the hard work and dedication of those laboring throughout our state and special-interest affiliates. We are a member-driven body of empowered voices across the country. Therefore, integrity and honesty are paramount toward effectively serving the voices we embody. This is why we have spent considerable time in 2019 bridging ACB National with its members. Through on-boarding a new membership services coordinator, we now have enormous potential to strengthen the capacity of affiliates and usher in the next generation of leaders in our community.

Finally, securing our financial footing is the cornerstone toward building our long-term success. It is not only good stewardship, but we must also plan for future generations in an ever-changing global climate. The smart and prudent actions of our officers and directors reaffirmed these ideals, carving out a financial bedrock in 2019 capable of withstanding the challenges of 2020 and beyond.

While the broader future of our society is never fully known, we are excited by the adventures that lay ahead. We have prepared ACB to weather challenging times, and we will continue to build upon our success for generations to come.

Dan Spoone  
President

Eric Bridges  
Executive Director
## 2019 Financial Summary

### As of December 31, 2019

#### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$500,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$547,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Return</td>
<td>$565,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$219,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift stores</td>
<td>$336,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,169,798</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>$1,381,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$191,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$103,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,675,915</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net</strong></td>
<td><strong>$493,883</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$436,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$4,477,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$13,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>$115,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,043,430</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities & Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$352,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets (Restricted)</td>
<td>$3,173,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets (Unrestricted)</td>
<td>$1,517,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,043,430</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Program Expense by Percentage

- Advocacy: 25%
- Membership Services: 10%
- Conventions: 35%
- Audio Description Project: 6%
- ACB Radio: 6%
- Scholarships: 3%
- Other Programs: 15%
**MEASURING OUR SUCCESS – 2019**

2019 Program Achievements

**ADVOCACY**
Congress introduced H.R. 4129 to create a Medicare pilot for low-vision devices, while DOT released final enforcement statement protecting travelers with guide dogs, and advocacy yielded fruit in the Supreme Court, who refused to hear Domino’s v. Robles, affirming ADA protection online.

**INFORMATION, REFERRAL & PEER SUPPORT**
IRPS Steering Committee is established with board guidance on metrics, identifying most relevant FAQs and other material to assist inquiries.

**MEMBERSHIP**
Cindy Hollis hired as Membership Coordinator, rallying 165 hours of volunteer member engagement.

**AUDIO DESCRIPTION PROJECT**
Marked 10th anniversary of ADP with ACB/World Blind Union international survey and refreshed ADP website, now with over 3,350 titles.

**CONVENTION**
Rocked Rochester for the 2019 national conference & convention, returning back to the east coast for the first time in 20 years.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**
Steering committee established with initial focus on our communications channels.

**ADMINISTRATION & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**
Board established fiscal policies for contributions to legacy endowment while management restructuring for ACBES (thrift stores) resulted in increase of net revenue.
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
D.C. 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 Assn. 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
Montana Blind & Low Vision Council
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 Assn. of the Blind
ACB of Ohio
Oklahoma Council of the Blind
ACB of Oregon
Pennsylvania Council of the Blind
ACB of South Carolina
South Dakota Assn. 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 & 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 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, Inc.
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 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
Dr. Scholl Foundation
The Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation