

125
YEARS

CHRISTIAN RECORD

— SERVICES FOR THE BLIND —

2023 Annual Report



2023

President's Message

Dear Friends of Christian Record Services,

In 2023, there were many blessings and opportunities to advance our mission to “empower people who are blind to engage their communities and embrace the Blessed Hope.”



It is always a delight to welcome a new member and tell them about the resources available without cost because of the support of caring members like you—our donor community. For many, these free resources and programs meaningfully expanded their world.

God continued to provide resources to sustain the services and programs during the COVID years and in 2023 through your generosity and so many others in our faithful donor community. Each gift received was carefully stewarded to ensure maximum benefit for the blind community we serve.

In the following pages, you will read about some of the 2023 initiatives, one of which was the expansion project to help increase braille production. What a blessing! We also were pleased to be recognized by Charity Navigator as a Four-Star Charity, which adds to donor confidence when giving. The 2023 audit also confirmed no deficiencies, as our Treasury team met the highest compliance standards with accounting practices.

With the current economic volatility in our country, it is imperative we have margin for mission so we can say “Yes!” when God opens new doors of opportunity to bless our members who are blind and those we have not met yet. The best years are yet to come. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

As we celebrate 125 years of ministry in 2024, we want to thank you who have been a part of our history—whether for a brief time or many years. Your faithful support sends a clear message to the people we serve: There are people who care and a God who loves them individually.

As you read this report, I pray you will be as excited as I am to see the goodness of God on display through this ministry and the initiatives started and completed in 2023 because of your partnership.

In His Service,

Diane Thurber

Diane Thurber, President

The Big Impact:

Christian Record Services supports members throughout the United States and in countries around the world. Membership and services are free to anyone who is legally blind or cannot physically hold a book.

We offer accessible braille, large print, and audio resources, including Bibles, a correspondence Bible school, magazines, and a library of more than 2,000 resources. Additionally, we foster confidence and spiritual growth via National Camps for Blind Children (NCBC), improve access to higher education by awarding scholarships to deserving and chosen undergraduates, and deliver education and inspiration through PhoneFaith, featuring 17 weekly call-in programs.

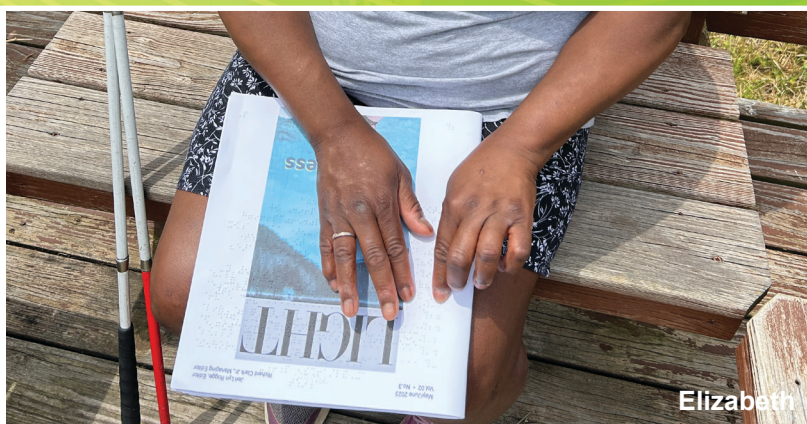
This ministry is sustained by donors whose prayers and financial support change the lives of the people we serve.

17,636
People Uplifted

111
New Member
Applications Mailed

285
New Members
Added

95,358
Resources Delivered



Magazines
84,253
Magazines Mailed

Library
5,130
Audio Books Lent

Bibles

105 Bibles Mailed	495 Bible Lessons Mailed
1,284 Bible Portions Mailed	37 Bible Course Certificates Awarded





Jennifer

Books

1,062

Braille Books Mailed

898

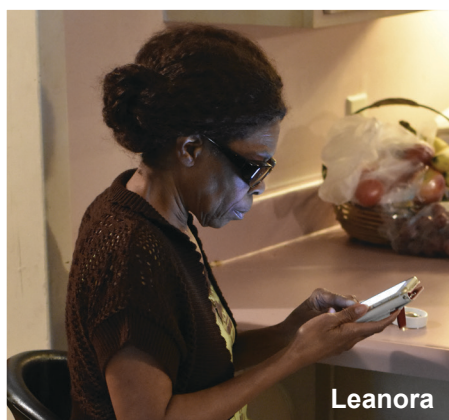
Large Print Books Mailed

1,232

Digital Resources and Media Accessed Online

265

Full-Vision Books™ Mailed



Leanora

PhoneFaith®

17

Weekly Call-in Programs

351

Unique Callers



April

National Camps for Blind Children

7

Camp Partnerships

123

Camp Experiences



Olivia

College Scholarships

6

Students Awarded Scholarships

\$12,000

Awarded

Thank you for making 2023 an impactful year!

2023

Events and Resource Releases

JAN

PhoneFatih® Winter Revival featuring Pastor Eddy Perez



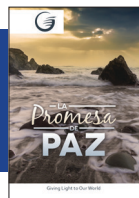
MAR

President Diane Thurber met with leaders at the Nebraska National Federation of the Blind Convention Banquet



MAY

12 GLOW tracts in Spanish large print and braille



JULY

Exhibited at the National Federation of the Blind Convention in Houston, Texas



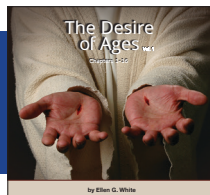
SEPT

Earned a Four-Star rating by Charity Navigator



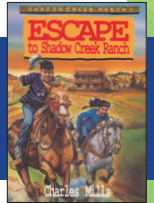
NOV

Bilingual editions of *The Desire of Ages* by Ellen G. White in braille, large print, and audio



FEB

12-book set for kids, *Shadow Creek Ranch* by Charles Mills in braille



APR

10-book set for kids, *Detective Zack* by Jerry D. Thomas in braille



JUNE

Adventist Learning Community filmed at Timber Ridge Camp in preparation for a 5-part Blind Camp Training video series.



AUG

Buena Salud Spanish Bible studies in audio and large print



OCT

Braille expansion suite grand opening



DEC

Bilingual Christmas audio special with stories and music of the season



2023

Member Testimonials



“My doctor basically told me I was on my way to a heart attack if I didn’t change my lifestyle. But I didn’t know how to start. I received a postcard in the mail from Christian Record Services, so I tried listening in to some sessions about diabetes on PhoneFaith®. I learned so much! And it helped to talk to people who were struggling with the same things. I requested a braille cookbook from Christian Record Services and got started with simple recipes. I found a hobby I enjoy very much. My doctor is pleased, too!” (*Nate)

“I’d been looking for a braille Bible for several years, but I didn’t know where to get one. So, thank you for the four volumes of the Gospels in braille you sent me! For the first time, I am able to read a chapter to my parents every Sunday after dinner. I look forward to it every week.” (Carol Anne)

“In order to read, I have to use very large print materials and hold them very close to my face. But I LOVE to read whenever I can! Especially Christian books and materials. Christian Record Services gave me a FREE Bible with large enough print that I can read it for myself. I am reading in First Samuel right now ... having my own Bible is very, very important to me!” (Bryce)

“Every evening, we have worship and I read the Bible stories from *The Beginner’s Bible* to my [sighted] daughter. I read the braille and ask her, ‘Do you see the picture?’ as I point to the page. This ministry has helped me as a father to bond with my baby and helped my spiritual growth.” (Dexter)



Gifts to Christian Record Services make a lasting difference in the lives of people who are blind, providing free programs and services that give inspiration, confidence, and a feeling of belonging.

2023

Member Testimonials

“I spent every moment listening to stories about Jesus. I just couldn’t get enough! I accepted Jesus as my Savior [at NCBC] and found God’s purpose for my life. I also discovered I’m a really good swimmer, and I’m on my school swim team now. I met friends I’ll have forever.” (*Wendy)

**(Name changed by member request to protect their privacy).*

“I don’t get a free pass to heaven because I am blind. Blind people are sinners in need of a Savior. I realized a lot of blind people don’t have church homes. Many don’t leave their homes for months at a time. They don’t have a sense of community. PhoneFaith® grew out of that need to connect people with Jesus.” (Dexter)

“Listening to audiobooks, articles, and Bible studies from Christian Record Services has greatly strengthened my faith. I’m always hungry for more. I can’t find resources in Spanish—which is my first language—anywhere else.” (Isabel)



“I was born in Cuba, and I came to know Jesus as a young girl. I have always been excited to share Jesus with other people. But when I completely lost my vision, it became much more difficult for me to share the Bible with others. I reached out to many institutions, looking for different resources—finding resources in Spanish was even harder for me. Then, I found the resources I need at Christian Record Services. It is the only place giving me the Spanish tools I need to share the gospel of God with others and help my friends enjoy the beautiful message of hope.” (Nelkys)

2023

Member Testimonials

“God has been present in every stage of my life, even when things seemed the darkest. And I’m grateful for all the encouragement and teaching I get from Christian Record Services. Instead of pity, I receive understanding—which helps me AND my family become the people God wants us to be. I know there are many people being blessed by Christian Record Services, but I assure you no one has been more blessed than me. I have faced difficult situations in life, but my faith continues to grow day by day, thanks to everything Christian Record Services brings to my spiritual life. Through you, the Lord blesses me constantly.”
(Isabel)



“I’d grown up going to Sunday School and to church. But I’d never seen real love in action until I spent time with the staff at camp. I began to get a greater understanding of God and who He is and who He wants to be in my life. Shortly after camp, I made a decision for Christ and asked Him into my heart. Over the years, I met the Lord there again and again, and I got to experience a loving and supportive environment with people who really understand what being blind is like. I’ve also had the chance to minister to so many friends who need to know God has not given up on them—or on me.” (Marye)

2023

Consolidated Statement of Activities

INCOME STATEMENT

2023

INCOME

Contributions	\$2,090,656
Legacies and Bequests	\$169,900
Investments	\$251,005
Other Income	\$148,767
Total Income	\$2,660,328

EXPENSES

Program Services

Personal Services	\$680,280
Production of Periodicals	\$154,865
Lending Library	\$458,571
Public Information and Education	\$388,695
Camps and Other Direct Services	\$63,446
Program Services Total	\$1,745,857

Supporting Activities

Fundraising	\$406,349
Administration	\$281,889
Supporting Activities Total	\$688,238

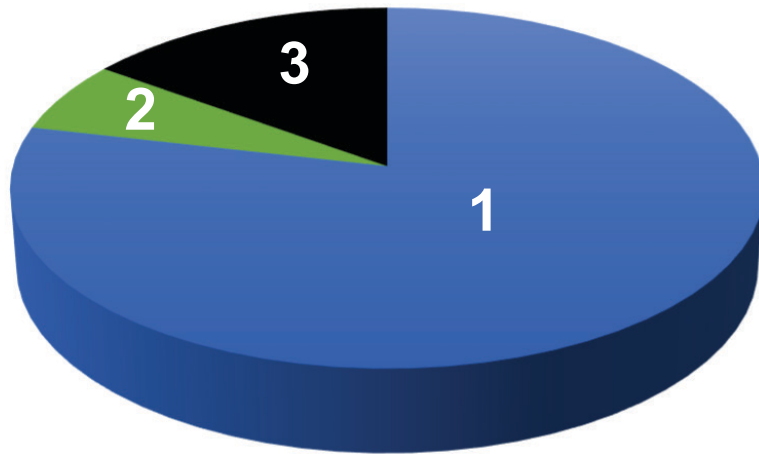
Total Expenses	\$2,434,095
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Net Operating Gain (Loss)	\$226,233
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Net Assets Beginning	\$8,334,591
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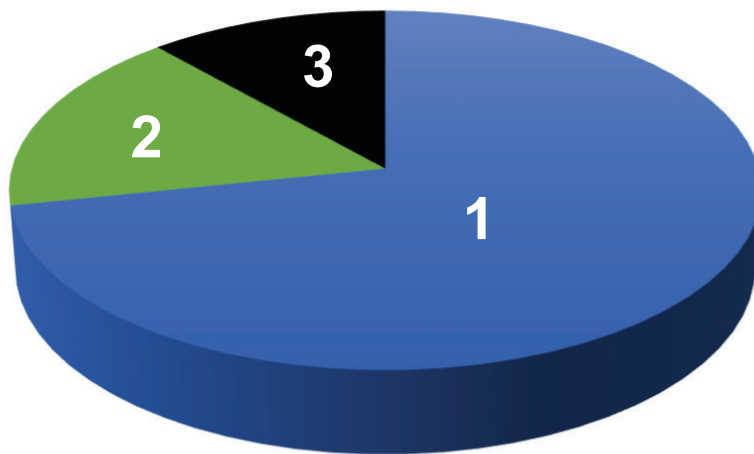
Net Assets Ending	\$9,272,167
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Income



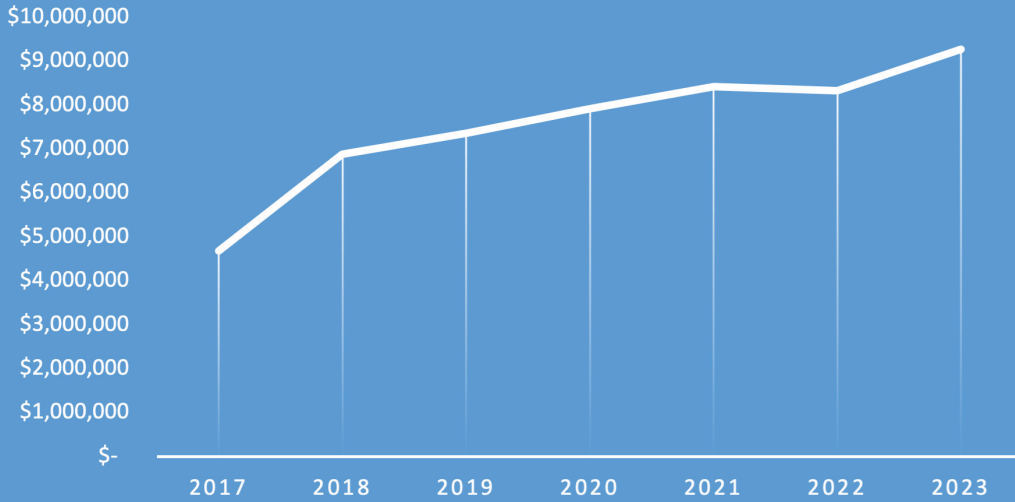
1. Contributions: 79%
(individual, organization, corporation, foundation)
2. Legacies and Bequests: 6%
3. Investments and Other Income: 15%

Expenses



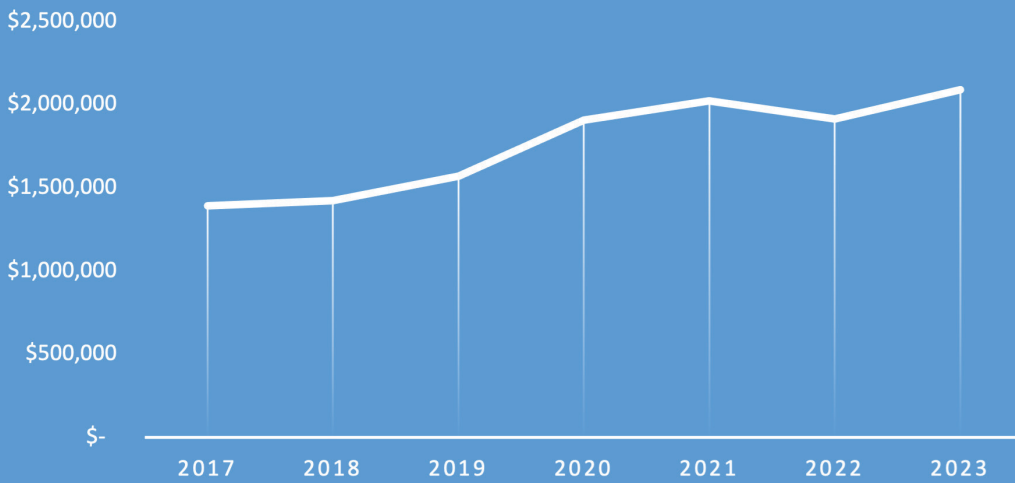
1. Programs and Services: 72%
2. Fundraising: 17%
3. Administration: 11%

NET ASSETS GROWTH



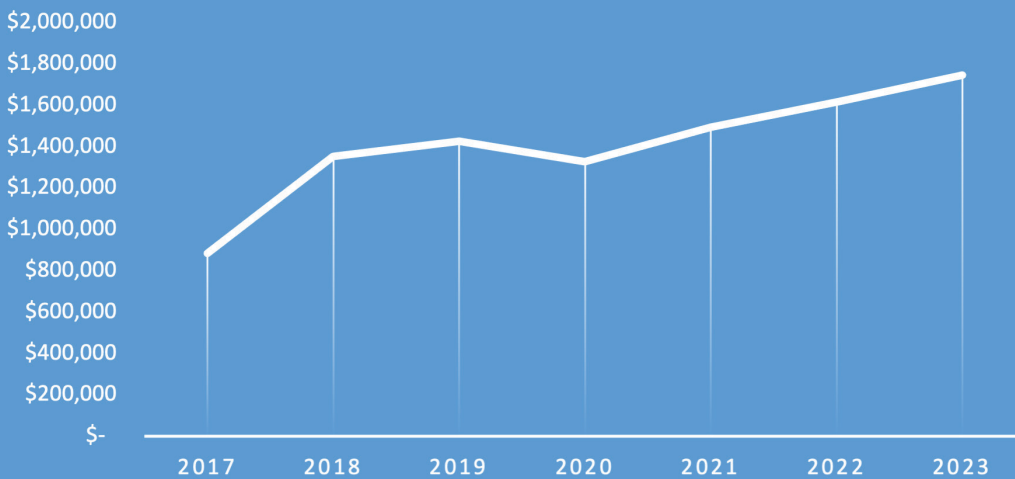
In 2016, the Christian Record Services Board of Directors voted plans to restructure the ministry. The graphs on this page confirm positive trends that resulted because of restructuring decisions made then and subsequently by the administration.

CONTRIBUTION INCOME GROWTH



We are grateful for the increase in contributions, which is reflected in the growth in net assets. Thank you! This growth reflects both restricted and unrestricted gifts.

SERVICE SPENDING GROWTH



We are also pleased with the growth trend showing allocation of more contributions from donors for services and programs for our members who are blind or visually impaired.

2023

Board of Directors

Officers

G. Alexander Bryant* — *Chair*

Kyoshin Ahn* — *Vice Chair*

Elaine Hagele* — *Vice Chair*

Diane Thurber* — *Secretary*

Board Members

Tony Anobile

Al Burdick*

Dan Carlson*

Judy Glass*

Minner Labrador

Matthew Orian*

Randy Robinson

Larry Romrell

Vinita Sauder

Dexter Thomas

Topher Thompson*

Gary Thurber

Deborah Whitfield

William Wood

Regular Invitees

Kalvin Follett, Member Services and Studio Director

Lonnie Kreiter, Vice President for Finance

Sydney Leffler, Undertreasurer

Kristine Lemons, Mission Advancement Director

Jeri Lyn Rogge, Editorial and Outreach Ministries Director

**Christian Record Services Finance Committee*

Officers of the Board



G. Alexander Bryant
Chair
Columbia, Maryland



Kyoshin Ahn
Vice Chair
Columbia, Maryland



Elaine Hagele
Vice Chair
Lincoln, Nebraska



Diane Thurber
Secretary
Lincoln, Nebraska

CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

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2023