

# A Legacy of Compassion

Annual Report 2015



CHRISTIAN RECORD  
SERVICES FOR THE BLIND



Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear  
and the blind can see.

~Mark Twain

## From the President

*The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning; your faithfulness is abundant! "My portion is the Lord," I have said to myself, so I will put my hope in him.*  
Lamentations 3:22-25 (NET)



When I contemplate these verses, my thoughts are drawn to the many ways God leads Christian Record Services, Inc. Although new to the presidency of this organization, arriving in the last quarter of 2015, I sensed immediately that Christian Record has carried out a legacy of compassion in many ways and for many reasons. I'd like to mention a few.

First, in learning that the organization had been serving people who are blind since 1899, I believed I was joining a ministry God had ordained and continues to sustain. So many faithful missionaries of this cause have served through Christian Record, and I am grateful for their service and the foundation laid.

Second, I discovered the many ways people who are blind can connect with God through Christian Record's services and compassionate programs. This report highlights those services as well as gives a stewardship overview. I am thankful for each donor who entrusted their monetary blessings with Christian Record to strengthen its efforts.

Finally, Christian Record's legacy of compassion is best illustrated through the relationships built with the people it serves. These individuals, who happen to be blind, enjoy services and programs that are provided to them free of charge. It is a joy to know that these high-quality services and programs, combined with the compassion of giving donors, reach the hearts of some 20,000 individuals worldwide. And it's about more than merely placing a specialized magazine into someone's hands or sponsoring a week of blind camp. We give God the glory for the opportunity to call these precious clients our friends.

Our hope remains in the Lord. As we look back over the stories and information contained in this 2015 annual report, we rejoice.

Thank you for the part you play in this legacy of compassion.

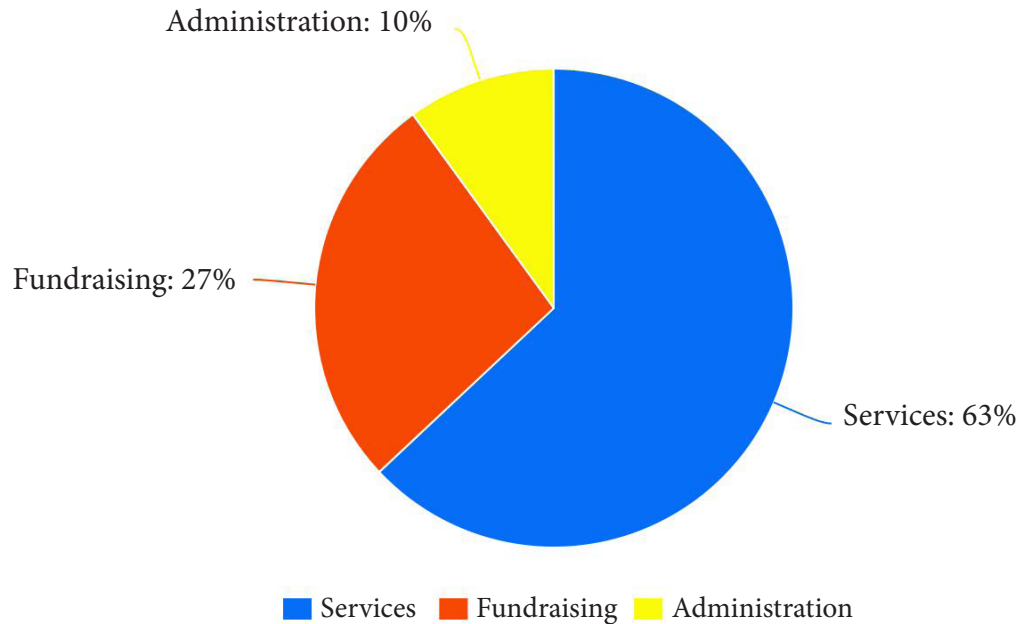
*Diane Thurber*

Diane Thurber  
President

# Christian Record 2015 Consolidated Statement of Account (Audited)

| <b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>           | <b>2015</b>        | <b>2014</b>        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                     |                    |                    |
| Contributions                     | \$3,402,946        | \$3,412,853        |
| Legacies and Bequests             | \$348,917          | \$414,933          |
| Investments                       | \$105,933          | \$115,906          |
| Other Income                      | \$473,214          | \$189,669          |
| <b>Total Income</b>               | <b>\$4,331,010</b> | <b>\$4,133,361</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                   |                    |                    |
| <b>Program Services</b>           |                    |                    |
| Personal Services                 | \$574,796          | \$612,167          |
| Production of Periodicals         | \$361,541          | \$391,265          |
| Lending Library                   | \$205,648          | \$224,112          |
| Public Information and Education  | \$863,253          | \$886,357          |
| Camps and Other Direct Services   | \$634,468          | \$708,094          |
| <b>Program Services Total</b>     | <b>\$2,639,706</b> | <b>\$2,821,995</b> |
| <b>Supporting Activities</b>      |                    |                    |
| Fund-raising                      | \$1,147,008        | \$1,050,183        |
| Administration                    | \$412,220          | \$354,625          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>             | <b>\$4,198,935</b> | <b>\$4,226,803</b> |
| Net Operating Gain (Loss)         | \$(6,881)          | \$(35,518)         |
| Net Assets Beginning              | \$3,915,509        | \$3,951,026        |
| Net Assets End                    | \$3,908,628        | \$3,915,509        |
| <b>Endowments</b>                 |                    |                    |
| Scholarship Fund                  | \$83,188           | \$83,858           |
| Library Digitization Fund         | -                  | \$4,581            |
| Operating Fund                    | \$21,974           | \$21,926           |
| Camper Fund                       | \$306,764          | \$332,493          |
| <b>Received Bequests</b>          |                    |                    |
| Beneficial Interest Distributions | \$101,307          | \$71,410           |
| Charitable Gift Annuities         | -                  | \$26,383           |
| Wills                             | \$281,811          | \$357,864          |
| Trusts                            | \$54,121           | \$107,754          |

### Distribution of Expenses



- A total of 63% of expenses was directly expended on program services.
- The balance provided the support that made free services possible.
- Ending assets for the year totaled \$3,908,628. These assets include Christian Record building and property, furnishings, equipment, and vehicles, which are housed at Christian Record's headquarters in 2015.

The vision of the Treasury Department at Christian Record Services, Inc., in cooperation with the Board Finance Committee, is to create and maintain a financially-sound organization. By striving for day-to-day excellence, its hope is to provide people who are blind with continuing services and confidence for donors and supporters. The team works to consistently implement the following core values:

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Expertise
- Service
- Compliance

Christian Record undergoes an annual audit completed by a CPA firm to ensure compliance. An active Audit Review Committee maintains internal controls and accountability.

A copy of the full audited financial statement and IRS 990 are available upon request:

- [info@christianrecord.org](mailto:info@christianrecord.org)
- (402) 488-0981 x214

Letters received from clients of Christian Record Services, Inc., tell an impactful story of the continuing legacy of compassion.

**A blind client from Zambia wrote and gave us this encouragement:**



By allowing blind persons to read Scriptures in braille, to discover the truth in their own terms; you have opened the way to salvation for many, who otherwise would have never known Christ as their personal Savior. The service you provide is amazing.

Jeconia



Praise for our audio publications:

Dear Friends,

I live in a small town in New South Wales, Australia. By the grace of our dear Lord, your CD "Encounter" came into my hands. The passing of a loved one had left me feeling alone; although my heart cried, my eyes could not.

Your CD came to me, traveling overseas and thousands of miles to reach me. With no knowledge of what I was about to hear, I put your CD on.

I heard the voice of God. God had given me a gift and now it was time for me to be thankful, and silent tears have run down my face.

Leslie



Dear Editor,

I read every word of your wonderful magazine called "Light" last night before I went to bed and I must say, it really inspired me and renewed my spirit. I believe in our God with all my heart and your "Light" magazine helps me so much.

I also want to thank you and every one who does a part in making this wonderful magazine possible.

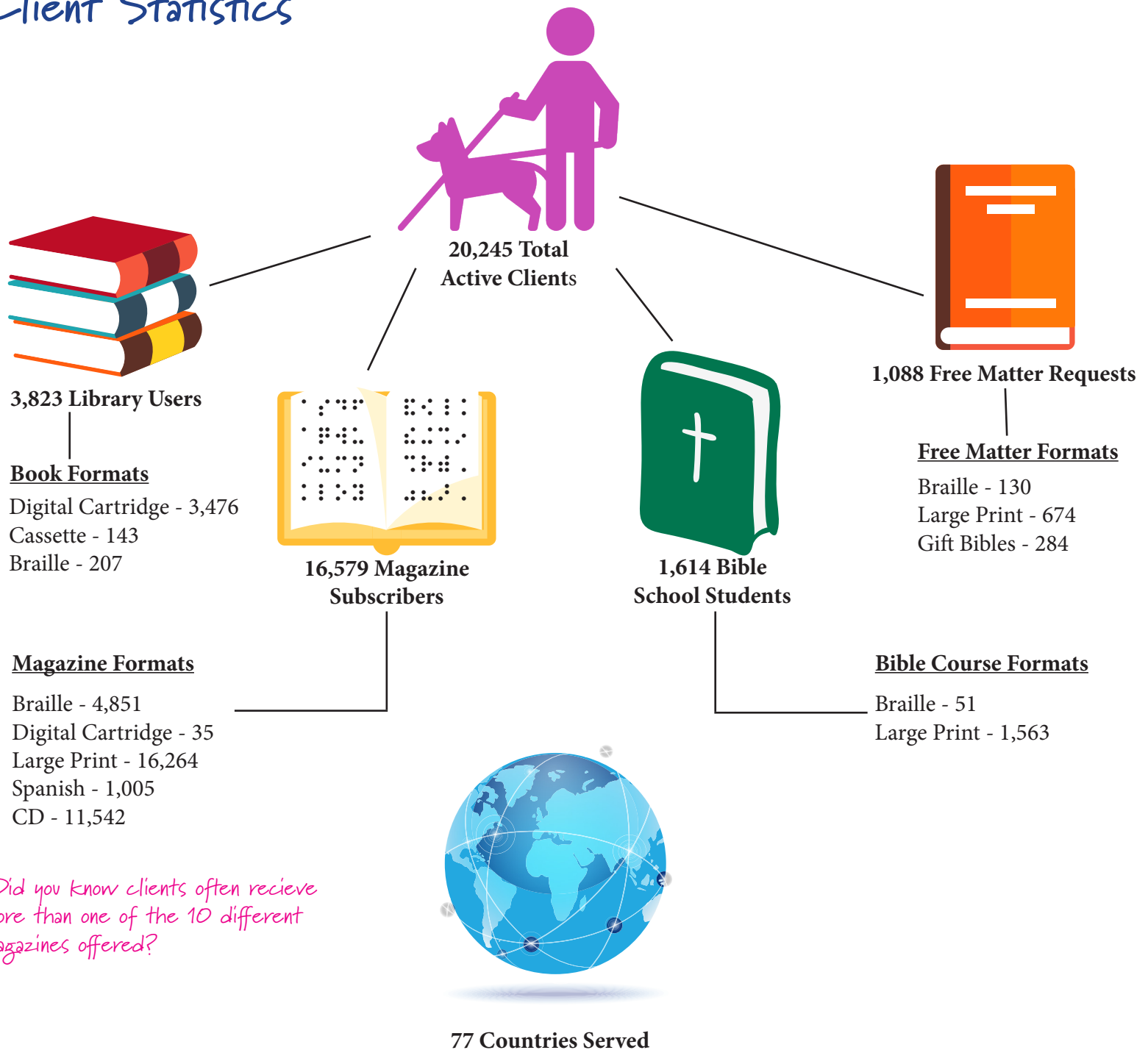
I truly believe this will help win souls for our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Iva





# Client Statistics

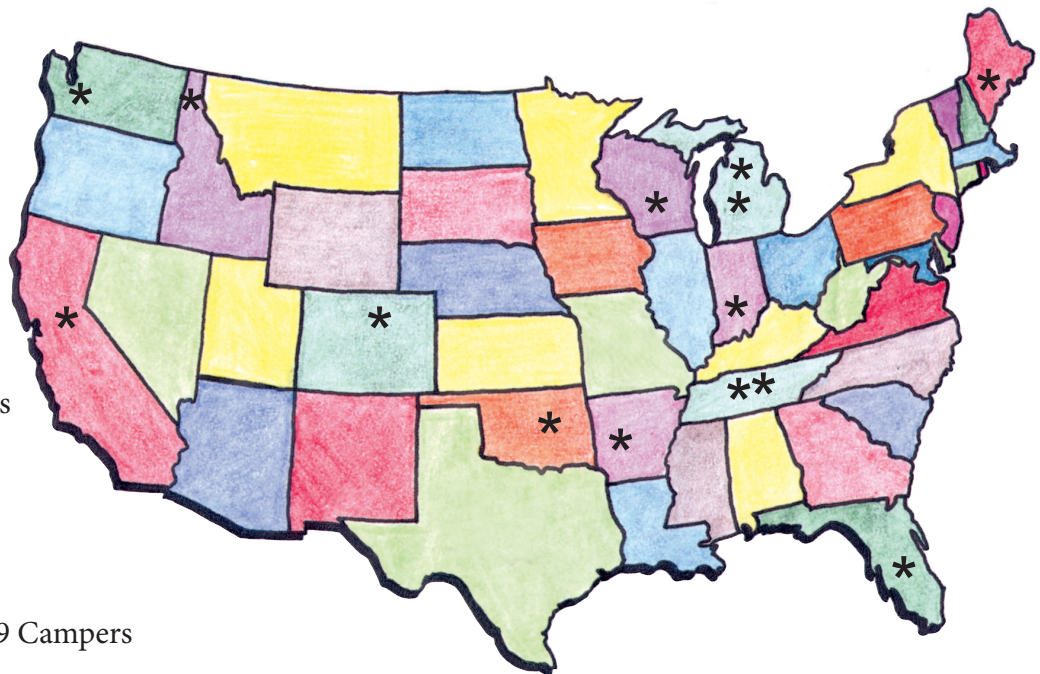


You can see for yourself how vital the ministry is to everyone who receives services.

# Legacy of Compassion at National Camps for Blind Children

|    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| WA | Sunset Lake, 12 campers          |
| CA | Leoni Meadows, 31 campers        |
| ID | MiVoden, 19 campers              |
| CO | Glacier View, 22 campers         |
| OK | Wewoka Woods, 15 campers         |
| WI | Wakonda, 14 campers              |
| AR | Yorktown Bay, 64 campers         |
| MI | Blind Bikers, 24 campers         |
|    | Winter Camp Au Sable, 13 campers |
| IN | Timber Ridge, 29 campers         |
| TN | Blind Bikers, 4 campers;         |
|    | Indian Creek, 59 campers         |
| FL | Lake Aurora, 23 campers          |
| ME | Lawroweld, 31 campers            |

Total 359 Campers



For the past 49 years, blessings given from people with a philanthropic heart afforded numerous blind children, teens, and adults to have confidence-building experiences at camp.

If there is any question as to the power of blind camp, just ask any camper. The tremendous responses from campers are a testimony to those who have given financially.

Camper Chelsea has septo-optic dysplasia. At camp, she confidently proclaimed, "Today, I am going to challenge myself. I'm going to try archery." Chelsea was so thankful for the opportunity to go to camp and learn just how capable she can be.

Through National Camps for Blind Children, God's message of love, strength, and compassion is received by those who need it most. Kainen was born three months early and has no eyesight. He admitted he has trouble forgiving, but the Christian environment at camp helped him realize there was more to life. He tells us, "Camp has helped me become more independent. I love this camp. It feels like family. It has been a godsend for me."



# 2015 Board of Directors

Dan Jackson - *Chair*  
 Tom Lemon - *Vice Chair*  
 Larry Pitcher\* - *Secretary*, Jan. 1-Oct. 1, 2015 (retired)  
 Diane Thurber\* - *Secretary*, Oct. 1-Present  
 Shelly Kittleson\* - *Recording Secretary*, permanent invitee

Debra Brill  
 Al Burdick\*  
 Dan Carlson  
 R. Ernest Castillo  
 G. Thomas Evans\*  
 Elaine Hagele  
 Harry Janke  
 Mark Johnson  
 Jerome Lang\*  
 Debbie Manasco  
 A. James McArthur  
 Daisy Orion\*

Troy Peoples\*  
 Don Pursley\*  
 Leo Ranzolin  
 Vinita Sauder  
 Richard Stenbakken  
 G. Ralph Thompson  
 Topher Thompson  
 Gary Thurber  
 L. Brant Westbrook\*  
 Robert Wilson  
 William Wood

\* Christian Record Finance Committee members



**Daniel R. Jackson**  
 Chair  
 Silver Spring, Maryland



**Tom Lemon**  
 Vice Chair  
 Lincoln, Nebraska



**Larry Pitcher**  
 Secretary  
 Lincoln, Nebraska



**Diane Thurber**  
 Secretary  
 Lincoln, Nebraska



Larry Pitcher enjoys listening to an NCBC camper read from a Full-Vision book.

Larry Pitcher served as president of Christian Record from 1995 to the fall of 2015. Larry's passion for connecting people who are blind to Jesus was evident in many aspects of his ministry through Christian Record. Visiting with blind individuals at camp or in their homes was a special highlight, and as he was able, he took the time to pray with each one. Larry and his wife, Leilani, a volunteer and partner in ministry, sought to understand the needs of people who are blind. Larry's legacy of compassion continues, and we are grateful for his many years of leadership.

Christian Record Board of Directors and Staff

## Testimony to the Legacy of Compassion

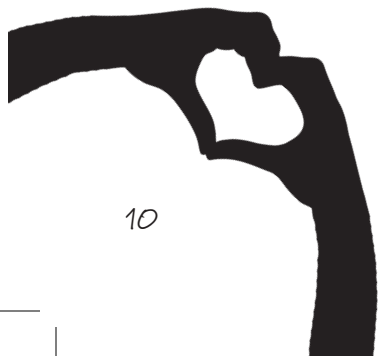
Neda lost her vision when she was 18 years old. Now age 62, she learns daily about God's compassion by reading her special spiral-bound braille Bible and Bible study guides from Christian Record Services, Inc. As you know, it takes a caring philanthropic heart to make sure that Neda can feel the compassion of Christ directly through His Word.

Neda says she loves these spiral-bound braille Bible and study guides she receives free of charge. Having the opportunity to read the Bible on one's own and in one's own way is something everyone deserves. You are in a special group of people who truly understand what it takes to provide this for every blind child and adult.

Neda started receiving free services from Christian Record when she was 38. Her first trip to camp was 20 years ago, and she says blind camp is the only time she ever has any fun. She gets a good dose of spirituality at camp devotional, too.

During the year, Neda waits patiently for cartridges from Christian Record to arrive in the mail. Her favorite is *Patriarchs and Prophets* by Ellen White. Neda wants you to know that she is so thankful for the Christian material she receives because of the kindness of people who care enough to financially support Christian Record.

You made this blind woman's life spiritually fulfilled and showed her the true meaning of Christ's compassion. We give glory to God and His work through the kind philanthropic hearts of those who care about the blind.







# CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND  
and NATIONAL *Camps for Blind* CHILDREN

Christian Record Services, Inc.  
PO Box 6097  
Lincoln, NE 68506-0097  
(402) 488-0981

[info@christianrecord.org](mailto:info@christianrecord.org)  
[www.christianrecord.org](http://www.christianrecord.org)  
[www.CRSBgift.org](http://www.CRSBgift.org)



Christian Record Services for the Blind



CRSBfriends

YouTube ChRecord



Christian Record