

# CHRISTIAN RECORD

— SERVICES FOR THE BLIND —

## 2024 Annual Report



2024



# Partner With Us to Light the Way

We are incredibly grateful for partners like you who share our vision and commitment. Your generosity, in all its forms, is the bridge that connects today’s impact to tomorrow’s expanded service.

If you are inspired to deepen your partnership, we warmly invite you to have a conversation with us about our strategic priorities and how your investment can create significant, lasting change. Please contact our office to explore how, together, we can illuminate paths to hope for even more individuals.

Here are some of the most common ways our partners get involved:

## Ways to Give

- 1. **Give Today:** Make a one-time or recurring monthly gift to provide steady support.
- 2. **Give Smarter:** Maximize your impact through a tax-wise gift of stock, a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), or a distribution from your IRA.
- 3. **Give for the Future:** Create a lasting legacy through a planned gift in your will or trust.
- 4. **Double Your Impact:** Check if your employer offers a matching gift program.

## Be a Voice for the Mission

Help us reach more people in need by sharing the story of Christian Record Services.

- Share your passion for our mission with your church, workplace, or community group.
- Like us, follow us, and share our content with your social media friend groups.
- Connect someone you know living with blindness or low vision to our free, faith-filled resources and services.

Scan to add our contact info to your smartphone!

[DonorCare@ChristianRecord.org](mailto:DonorCare@ChristianRecord.org)

402-488-0981, option 4



# President’s Message



Dear Valued Impact Partners,

As I reflect on the remarkable achievements of Christian Record Services (CRS) in 2024, my deepest gratitude goes to you, our dedicated partners. Your visionary generosity is the foundation upon which our ministry stands. It is because of your significant commitment that we reached thousands of individuals living with blindness and low vision this past year, delivering over 91,000 resources and facilitating transformative experiences like camps and PhoneFaith®.

Every program delivered, every life touched, every story of renewed hope shared in this report is a direct result of your investment in our mission. You are not just donors; you are essential partners to inspire individuals to live lives of dignity, purpose, and hope by serving the whole person — fostering faith, health, knowledge, and community. We are profoundly grateful for your trust in us to be effective stewards of your philanthropic goals.

We are excited to launch our Proposed Strategic Plan for 2025-2027. Your increased investment in 2025 directly empowers us to expand into new markets, including indigenous populations, refugees and immigrants, and the unhoused among us who are blind or experiencing blindness or low vision. In addition, we will identify and explore new opportunities to provide resources and digital accessibility from birth through adulthood. We will continue to ensure the comprehensive support we provide across faith, health, knowledge, and community reaches every individual who needs it. We cannot fulfill this mission without you.

In March 2025, I shared with the CRS Board of Directors my intention to retire at the end of July 2025. This decision was made with the utmost confidence in the incredible team I am leaving behind — dedicated individuals who will continue to advance the impactful work we’ve built together. Since I began as president in October 2015, your unwavering support has allowed us to dream bigger, serve wider, and draw inspiration from your commitment to transform lives. Your partnership illuminates the path to a brighter future for so many.

CRS will always hold a special place in my heart, and even in retirement, I remain committed to supporting this vital ministry. Thank you for being a key member of the CRS family. Together, we can continue to inspire hope and create lasting change in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for being an indispensable part of this journey.

With gratitude,

*Diane Shurber*



# CHRISTIAN RECORD

125 YEARS

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Behind every number in this report is a story of someone who felt seen, valued, and supported—because of you. Your generosity made it possible for CRS to provide free, faith-filled, and life-enriching resources to people living with blindness and low vision in 2024, helping build an inclusive and empowering community where each person can move forward with dignity, purpose, and hope.

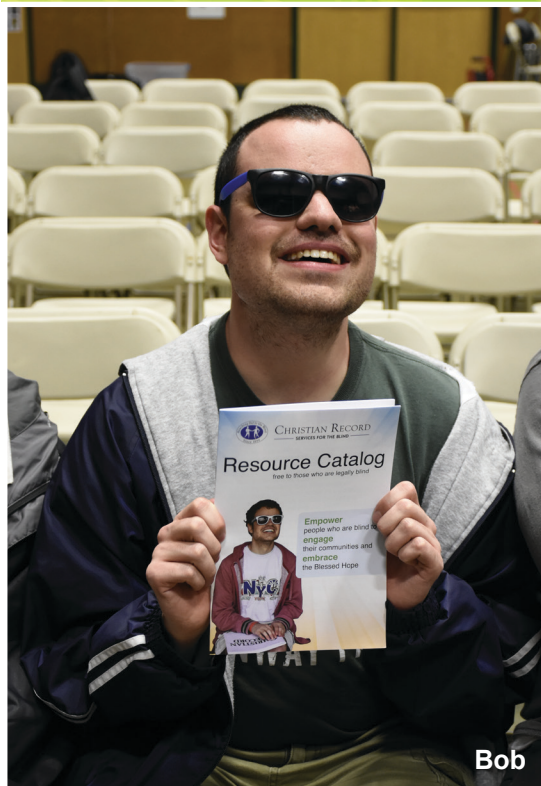
## 2024 Impact:

**17,465**  
Memberships  
Worldwide

**536**  
New Member  
Applications Mailed

**202**  
New Members  
Added

**91,860**  
Resources Delivered



**Magazines**  
**79,091**  
Magazines Mailed

**Articles**  
**680**  
Articles Mailed

**Library**  
**5,098**  
Audio Books Lent

**Bibles**  
**131**  
Bibles Mailed

**462**  
Bible Lessons Mailed

**755**  
Bible Portions Mailed

**19**  
Bible Course Certificates  
Awarded

**PhoneFaith®**  
**17**  
Weekly Call-in Programs

**377**  
Unique Callers

**PhoneFaith® Español**  
**9**  
Programs

**39**  
Unique Callers

**National Camps  
for Blind Children**  
**6**  
Camp Partnerships

**100**  
Camp Experiences

**College Scholarships**  
**6**  
Students Awarded  
Scholarships

**\$12,000**  
Awarded



### Books

**518**  
Braille Books Mailed

**1,049**  
Large Print Books  
Mailed

**1,731**  
Digital Resources and Media  
Accessed Online

**584**  
Full-Vision Books™ Mailed



### ZooBuds

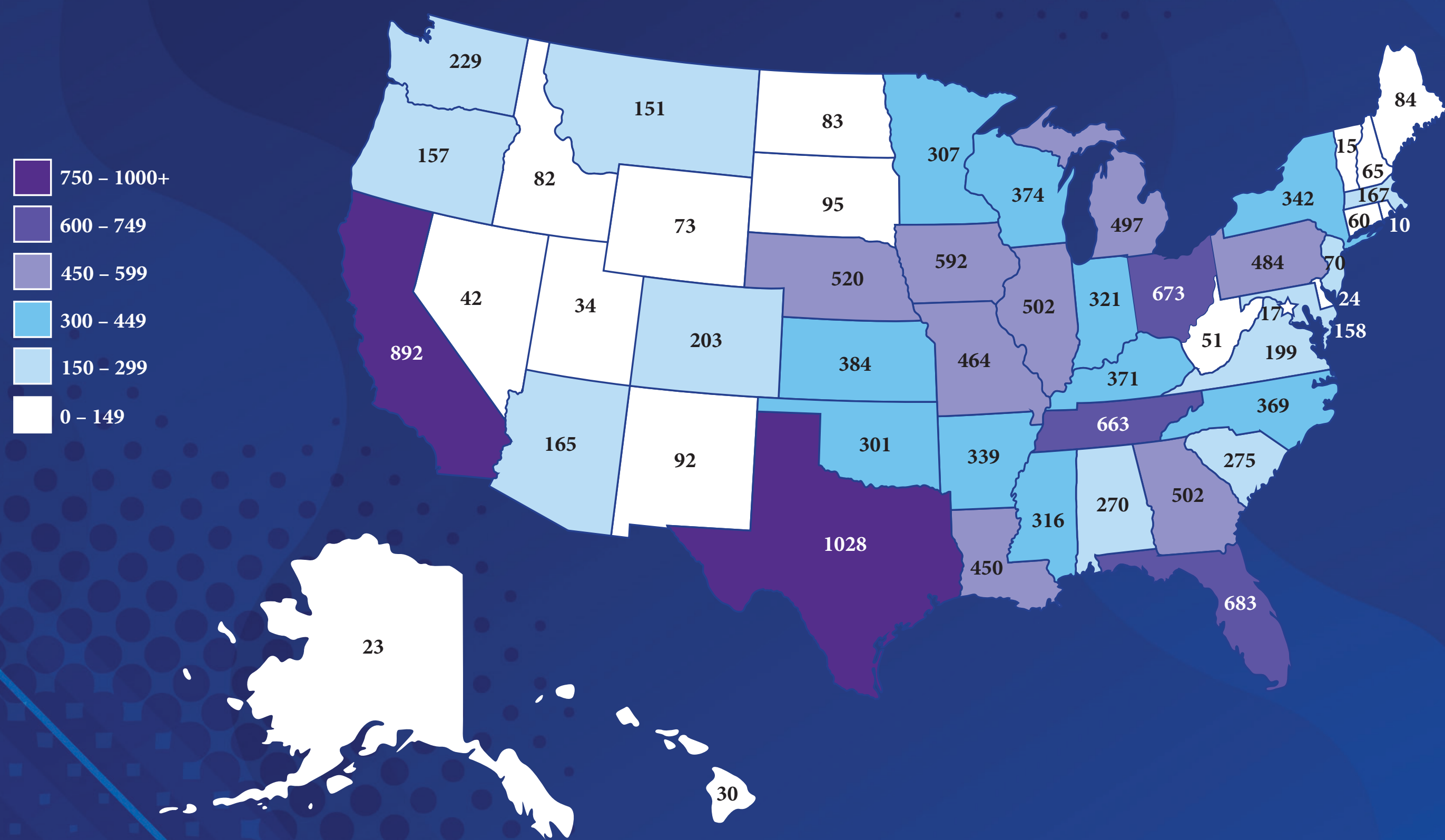
**18**  
Stuffed Animals with  
Story Players Mailed



**Thank you for making 2024  
an impactful year!**



# CRS Registered Members and Institutions in North America



Virgin Islands: 6      Puerto Rico: 62      Canada: 759      Total: 15,125



# 2024

## Events and Resource Releases

JAN

Added new accessibility features to ChristianRecord.org.



MAR

Released *Amor Indestructible* in Spanish accessible formats.



MAY

Attended the Lincoln, Nebraska, Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast.



JULY

Exhibited at the ACB/BVA National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida.



SEPT

Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen presented CRS with a proclamation highlighting the ministry's 125 years of service.



NOV

Released *Christmas Gifts* by Helen Heavirland and Creer: *El Gozo de la Navidad* for the Christmas season.



FEB

Attended the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Ministries Global Congress in Cambodia.



APR

Released new grief recovery book, *Gone* by Carlton Byrd in accessible formats.



JUNE

Welcomed Tandi Perkins, Director of Development, to the CRS team!



AUG

Present at Gillette, Wyoming, for the Pathfinders international Camporee.



OCT

PhoneFaith Virtual Meet and Greet with Randy Maxwell.



DEC

A hymnal with lyrics and responsive readings is released in accessible formats.



# 2024

## Member Testimonials

Your contribution translates directly into life-changing outcomes. Here are just a few examples of the profound impact your support delivered in 2024.



**"I find hope here at National Camps for Blind Children.** There's so much love, happiness, and joy. Being here with other people like me who love Jesus makes this the greatest place on earth!" Liz

**"In a way, CRS saved my life.** God used people like you to introduce me to Jesus Christ. **I met lifelong friends at camp** and found His purpose for my life. I want kids to have access to the same Bible stories that meant so much to me when I was their age.

**"I also count on your large-print magazines and Bible study resources for my own spiritual growth today ... and I want everyone reading this letter to know how important CRS has been in every part of my life. I am truly, deeply grateful."** \*Nyssa (pseudonym)

**"PhoneFaith® is like family.** My husband died in 2019 and if it wasn't for PhoneFaith® I might have joined him. I am very grateful." Georgette

**"My daughter, Ebony, is 15 years old and reads braille. I want to help her cook this Thanksgiving using your accessible cookbook. I want to read Christmas stories with her when we set up the tree. She has two more years before she starts college."** Ebony's dad

**"Thank you for all that you do to brighten a dark world.** I have given you a new name, Christian Record Agape Services. God bless you and thanks again for all that you do." Deborah



Marsha, Susan, and Shelly



# 2024 Member Testimonials

"I think that as a blind person, it's easy to let your disability define you. But the truth is, it's the way you handle challenges that really defines who you are. Coming to camp was a huge step for me. Not because I was afraid, but because it forced me to reflect on who I am and who I want to be.

"God gave me the chance to listen and be there for people in a way I never had before. I think He needed me to see that I need to be thankful for what I have, and that I can make a difference for people like me.

"I feel God calling my heart to sponsor someone else to come because I was impacted so much by camp. I want someone else to experience God's love, to make good friends, and to be encouraged by the chance to do new things. I want them to know that no matter what, they're important and have something to give." Alexandria



Alexandria



Thomas



Carey

"If I had to leave in a hurry, the one thing I would take is my solar Bible!" Sara

"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 CRS, 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." \*Larry (pseudonym)

# 2024 Member Testimonials

"It is the only place that could give me the Spanish tools I need to share the Gospel with others and help my friends enjoy the beautiful message of hope. I was able to tell a new friend about spiritual things. He asked if he could go to church with me, and I quickly said "yes." He was baptized about five years ago. A little bit after, we got married. Now we are a beautiful family that loves and worships God together. **We spend a lot of time listening to the Christian audiobooks we receive from CRS, and they help us further develop our faith.** Thank you for bringing such joy to our lives!" Maria



Tiffany



Briauna



Timothy, Janice, and Jordy

"Que bendición! Estas son parte de las fotos con Vivian al entregarle su regalo de parte de Dios según ella. Otra vez gracias. Que Dios les bendiga." Ramon and Vivian from Puerto Rico

"I finished a book from CRS and just wept. I **finally understood that Jesus had forgiven me**, even with everything I'd done. I accepted Jesus as my Savior, and I was baptized. CRS have been my lifesaver. I picked up the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit is leading my life." Thomas

"**CRS has allowed me to reclaim my strength and purpose.** Every step I take is a testament to the hope and light that this organization provides." Timothy



# 2024

## Donor Statements

“I am grateful for the opportunity to even be a part of the good work that CRS does. **It is extremely edifying to know that I am helping and being a part of all the enjoyable, supportive, educational, and spiritual services that CRS provides** to our brothers and sisters who are blind or have low vision. One of the reasons I continue to work is it enables me to contribute to CRS.”  
Gene



“It gives me a heartfelt thrill to see children who are blind or with low vision **doing things they didn’t dream possible.** I praise God for all the people who (give), making it possible. I am very blessed to see the happiness you bring to these people and the encouragement you give them.” Anetta



“My journey with CRS is long and deep. **I plan to contribute to support this ministry for the rest of my life.**” Fred

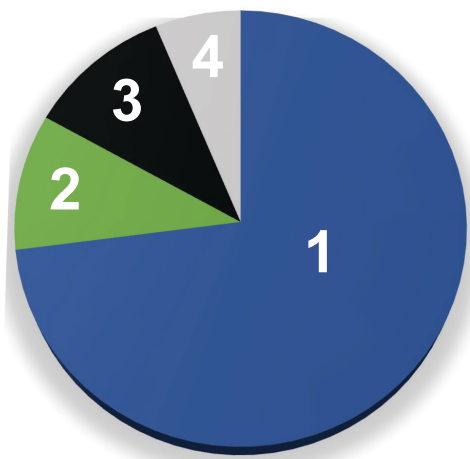
# 2024

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

INCOME STATEMENT	2024
<b>INCOME</b>	
Contributions	\$1,723,743
Legacies and Bequests	\$239,195
Investments	\$246,348
Other Income	\$116,462
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,325,748</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>Program Services</b>	
Personal Services	\$731,434
Production of Periodicals	\$145,442
Lending Library	\$503,724
Public Information and Education	\$416,013
Camps and Other Direct Services	\$53,621
<b>Program Services Total</b>	<b>\$1,850,234</b>
<b>Supporting Activities</b>	
Fundraising	\$492,252
Administration	\$278,587
<b>Supporting Activities Total</b>	<b>\$770,839</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,621,073</b>
Net Operating Gain (Loss)	(\$295,325)
Net Assets Beginning	\$9,272,167
Net Assets Ending	\$8,962,165

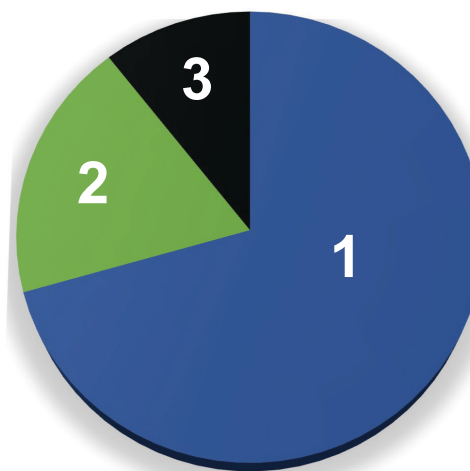


# Income



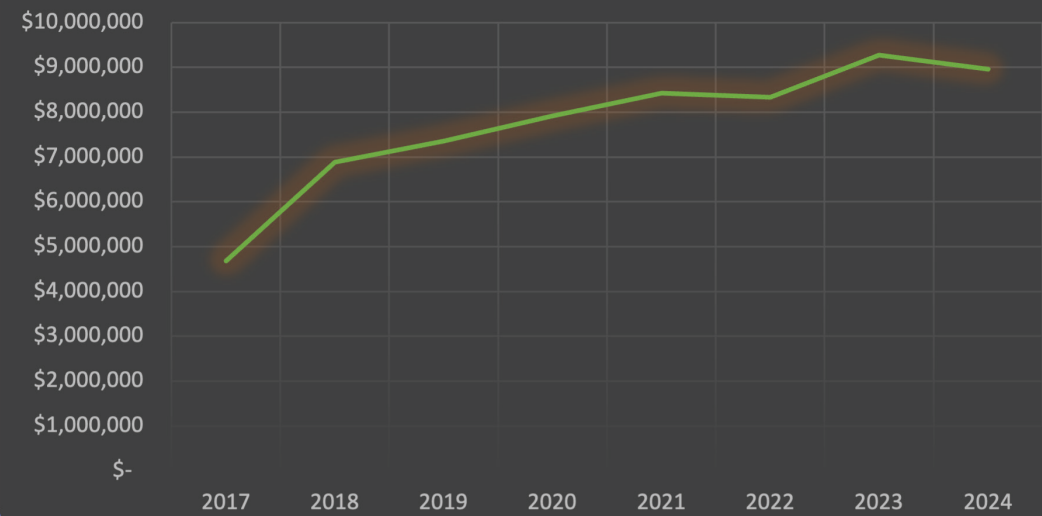
- 1. Contributions: 74.12%  
(individual, organization, corporation, and foundation)
- 2. Legacies and Bequests: 10.28%
- 3. Investments and Other Income: 10.79%
- 4. Other Income: 6.4%

# Expenses

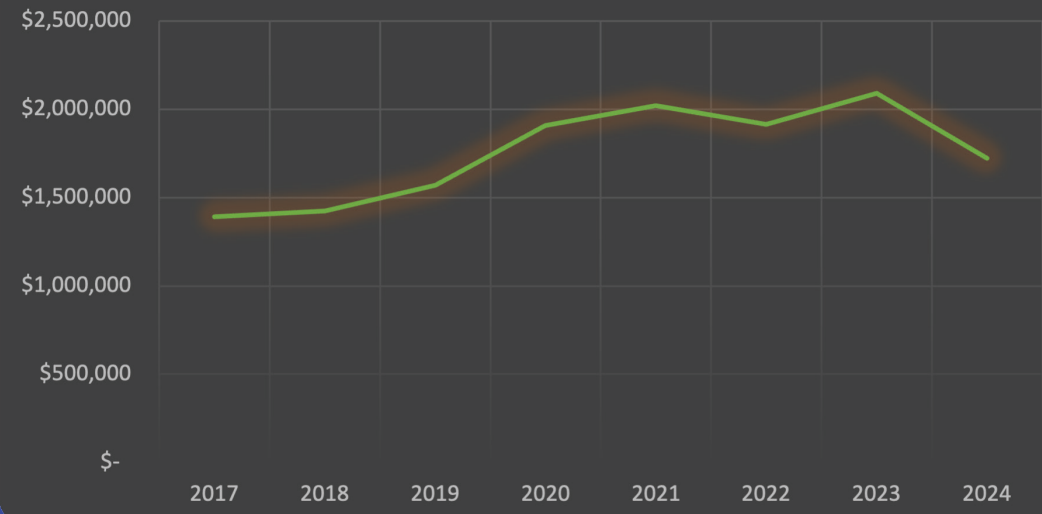


- 1. Programs and Services: 72%
- 2. Fundraising: 17%
- 3. Administration: 11%

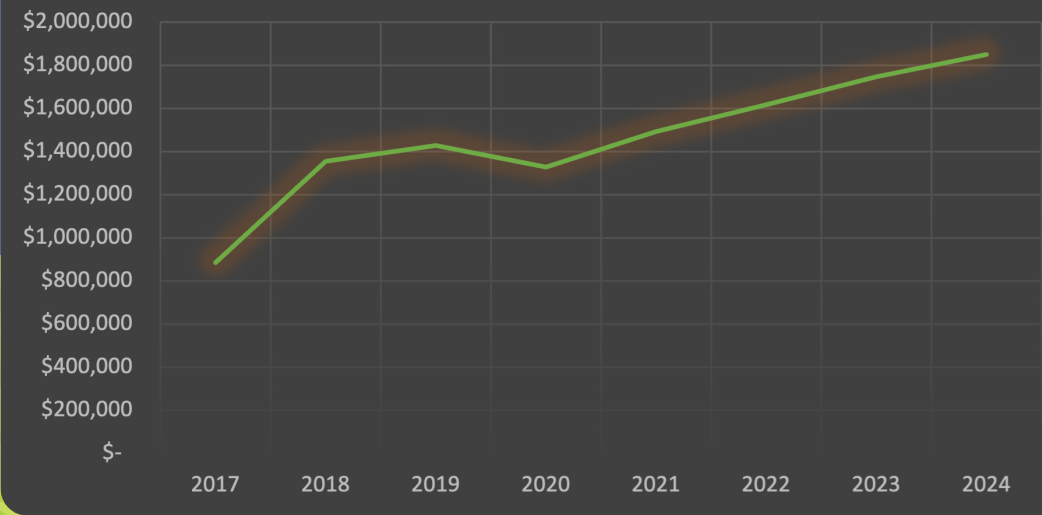
Growth in Net Assets



Growth in Contribution Income



Growth In Service Spending





# 2024 Financial Statement Summary

As the financial statement on page 13 illustrates, Christian Record Services is deeply committed to maximizing the impact of every dollar. We are proud that 72% of all expenditures in 2024 were dedicated directly to our life-enriching programs. Your support enabled us to deliver thousands of accessible resources and facilitate essential connections, serving the “whole person” by strengthening faith, health, knowledge, and community.

As you can see from the charts on page 16, the demand for our services and the generosity of our partners have been on a heartening upward trend for years. In 2024, in the face of rising costs, we made the conscious decision not to scale back our vital services. As a result, our overall income did not fully meet the financial requirements to sustain this level of crucial work and to fully pursue the exciting growth initiatives before us.

This is where your partnership in 2025 becomes truly pivotal. For our partners, this moment represents a powerful opportunity to build on our strong foundation and launch our ambitious strategic vision for 2025-2027. This plan is our roadmap to sustainable growth and deeper impact, focusing on four interconnected pillars:

- **Growing Our Membership:** Reaching more people who are blind or have low vision, ensuring every one of them feels seen, valued, and part of our community.
- **Enhancing Our Resources:** Innovating and expanding our accessible materials and experiences, from birth through adulthood, to meet the evolving needs of our members.
- **Strengthening Our Identity:** Elevating our voice so that the hope and help of Christian Record Services can be found by all who need it.
- **Ensuring Our Future:** Building the financial foundation that will ensure the long-term health and sustainability of this ministry for generations to come.

Your generosity is the bridge that connects today’s investment to tomorrow’s expanded impact. By investing in Christian Record Services in 2025, you directly fund these strategic priorities. Partner with us! Your gift today will ensure that the light of Christian Record Services shines even brighter, transforming lives and ensuring no one faces their journey alone.



# 2024 Board of Directors

## Our Commitment to Stewardship and Accountability

As a valued partner, your trust is the foundation of our ministry, and you deserve full confidence that your investment is managed with the utmost responsibility.

CRS is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors who bring a wealth of diverse leadership experience and a passionate commitment to our mission. They actively guide our strategy, ensure fiscal integrity, and uphold the highest ethical standards, all to ensure our programs are as effective as possible.

This commitment to accountability is reflected in our consistent high ratings from independent charity evaluators like Charity Navigator and Candid. This external validation assures you that your generous contributions are utilized effectively to maximize impact and secure the future of this vital work.

## 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

### Board Members

Andrea Ahrens  
Jackie Anderson  
Tony Anobile  
Doris Burdick  
Dan Carlson\*  
Judy Glass\*  
Minner Labrador  
Matthew Orian\*  
Larry Romrell  
Vinita Sauder  
Dexter Thomas  
Topher Thompson\*  
Gary Thurber  
Lilya Wagner  
Deborah Whitfield

### Regular Invitees

Brian Carlson, Communication Director  
Kalvin Follett, Member Services/Studio Director  
Lonnie Kreiter, Vice President for Finance  
Sydney Leffler, Undertreasurer  
Tandi Perkins, Development Director  
Jeri Lyn Rogge, Editorial/Outreach Ministries Director

*\*Christian Record Services Finance Committee*



# CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

**Christian Record Services, Inc.**  
**5900 S. 58th St., Suite M**  
**Lincoln, NE 68516**



**CRS Mission Statement:**  
Together, we value the blind and low-vision community and are committed to enriching their life journeys through free inspirational, educational, and informational resources and experiences.

Follow us on social media @CRSBfriends!



Dylan

2024