

Annual Report 2018

# Building *Community*

**Empower** people who  
are blind to **engage** their  
communities and **embrace**  
the Blessed Hope

CHRISTIAN RECORD  
— SERVICES FOR THE BLIND —





# From the *President*



July 5, 2019

To our key donors and friends,

This year marks the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christian Record Services for the Blind. Our members, donors, employees, volunteers, and the grace of God are what has made Christian Record successful all these years. To all of you, we say a hearty “thank you.” And we invite those who are just now learning about who we are and what we do to join our community — you’ll be in great company!

In 2017 we updated our mission statement to better reflect who we are as an organization and resource community for people who are blind. The process reminded me of Spanish philosopher Baltasar Gracián’s saying that “Good things, when short, are twice as good.”

Writing a meaningful mission statement, that is also succinct, took many weeks with input from friends. It was worth the effort. These words have become the heartbeat of who we are at Christian Record today.

**Christian Record’s mission is to “empower people who are blind to engage their communities and embrace the Blessed Hope.”**

Our mission statement anchors our programs and drives our purpose. Success is defined and measured by these fourteen words. The result is seen in balanced and sustainable financial reports that we are delighted to post, the highest accreditation possible by the Better Business Bureau, and most importantly to me — the amazing heartfelt stories by those who find the Blessed Hope through our work and thrive by accessing the services and resources we provide.

We are a community for all people — wherever they are on their life journey — committed to empowering people who are blind. I hope you will join our community very soon, if you haven’t already. There’s always room for one more caring heart at Christian Record.

Sincerely,  
*Diane Thurber*  
Diane Thurber, President

*On the cover—Jamal, an NCBC camper, enjoys a horseback ride.*

# You are a part of our *Community!*

Support from loving donors in 2018 was vital to the **16,541** children and adults who experienced hope and joy through services offered by Christian Record. **Thank you!**



People Served

**16,541 UPLIFTED**



Magazines Mailed

**104,996 ENCOURAGING MOMENTS**



Bible Lessons Mailed

**359 CONNECTIONS TO GOD**



Gift Bibles

**128 CONSUMED GOD’S WORD**



Campers

**184 GAINED CONFIDENCE**



Library Books Loaned

**6,772 INSPIRING TITLES READ**

# Exciting *community* connections

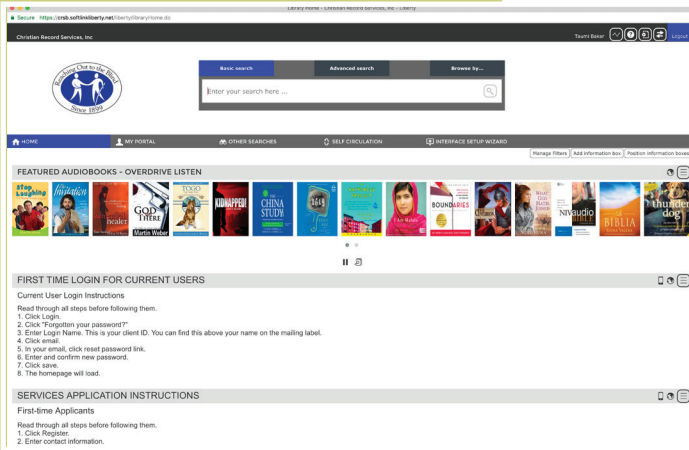


## ADDED SUPPORT AT BLIND CAMP

In 2018, Christian Record Services for the Blind partnered with Andrews University’s School of Social Work to pilot a counseling program at Blind Camp at Timber Ridge Camp. Shannon Trecartin, assistant professor, said it was a successful week. She taught coping strategies for anxiety and depression, problem solving for difficult family life issues, and support sessions for camp counselors.

“Shannon helped us with campers in ways we have never been able to achieve,” said Charlie Thompson, Timber Ridge camp and youth director for the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “I would never want to run a camp for the blind without the counseling assistance she provided. I wish Shannon could be at camp all summer!”

The program is expanding. In 2019, Shannon, along with a couple social work graduate students or alumni, will attend several more blind camps. Future plans include providing mental health training sessions (a type of mental health first aid) for the camp counselors, prior to blind camp, on topics such as autism, anxiety and depression, and adverse childhood experiences, and providing a referral system between staff and the social worker during blind camp.



## 100,000 IN 2018, A MILLION IN A DECADE

Naomi Turner, of Southern California, gave a gift to Christian Record Services for the Blind in the name of her mother Ethel Stevens Chapman, making it possible for the ministry to transition from cassette tape to encrypted digital cartridges. Then she gave another gift a decade later that made it possible for the ministry to move its resource library to an online database.

Technology might not be that exciting to some, but

here’s what those gifts mean. The original gift provided more than 132,000 encrypted digital cartridges and, in 2018, more than 100,000 resources were provided to people who are blind through Lib.Guide, the online library.

As a result, in a decade, Naomi Turner and the gift in her mother’s name, will touch about one million people who are blind. These folks now have access to the Bible, Bible study guides, and contemporary Christian literature like *The Invitation*. There are some 2,000 titles to choose from in Lib.Guide.

That’s the power of one gift.

## EIGHT STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

In July, Christian Record Services for the Blind publicly announced four collegiate recipients of the 2018 Anne Lowe Scholarship, and four more Guest Scholarship recipients later in the summer. “There were many exceptional, deserving students who applied for the scholarships,” said Diane Thurber, president. “The selected individuals exemplified the goal of our scholarship program to empower the next generation of people who are blind to become all they can possibly be.”

The Anne Lowe Scholarships are awarded to college students, based on academic achievement, citizenship (which is supported through reference letters), and verification of blindness. The scholarships are distributed in two parts during the school year. Tom Lowe established the scholarship in 1989 in the memory of his wife Anne, who loved education and the mission of Christian Record. Donors may contribute to this scholarship specifically or arrange to set up an endowment of their own by talking with a professional development officer at Christian Record.



Thomas was awarded a scholarship in 2017 and 2018.



Members of our *community*



**"I love reading because it's fun! And because I'm smart!"**  
– Sydney, Braille magazine subscriber

**"At other camps the kids called him 'blind bat' and no one would help him. Maddox's experience at an NCBC camp helped put the horrible bullying incidents behind him. Maddox made new friends who were especially kind to him."**  
– Harmony, Maddox's mom



**"Randy just blossomed when he started listening to talking books."**  
– Randy's parents



**"People don't always understand. People find out you have a disability and they see all the things you CAN'T do. They don't see all the things you CAN do."**  
– Emily, camper



Outcomes

Christian Record makes a lasting difference in the lives of people who are blind.

Meaningful gifts from donors provide free services that give inspiration, confidence, and a feeling of belonging.

**"Sydney is a reader. You give her a book and she reads it in a day! We struggle to find enough to keep her busy mind occupied. What you are doing for our children is amazing."**  
– Brad, Sydney's dad



# 2018 Consolidated Statement of *Activities*

## INCOME STATEMENT

2018

### INCOME

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions         | \$1,425,225        |
| Legacies and Bequests | \$1,327,653        |
| Investments           | \$(57,728)         |
| Other Income          | \$225,094          |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$2,920,244</b> |

### EXPENSES

#### Program Services

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Personal Services                | \$462,110          |
| Production of Periodicals        | \$190,883          |
| Lending Library                  | \$145,481          |
| Public Information and Education | \$415,213          |
| Camps and Other Direct Services  | \$140,007          |
| <b>Program Services Total</b>    | <b>\$1,353,694</b> |

#### Supporting Activities

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Fundraising    | \$397,055 |
| Administration | \$326,293 |

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$2,077,042</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Net Operating Gain (Loss) | \$843,202 |
|---------------------------|-----------|

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Net Assets Beginning | \$4,679,529 |
| Net Assets End       | \$6,889,685 |



Contributions: 48%  
(individual, organization, corporation, foundation)  
Legacies and Bequests: 45%  
Other Income: 8%



Programs: 65%  
Fundraising: 19%  
Administration: 16%

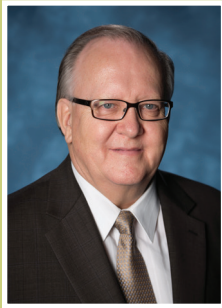
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*Christian Record Finance Committee members*

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# CHRISTIAN RECORD

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

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