

CHRISTIAN RECORD

— SERVICES FOR THE BLIND —

Annual Report



2025

A Message from Our Leadership: Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

The Outgoing President's Reflection

Since I began in October 2015 as president of Christian Record Services, I have been deeply blessed to witness the extraordinary impact of your partnership with this ministry. Together, we have climbed higher, dreamed bigger, and touched so many lives in the blind and low vision community.

When I speak with friends in this community, I often hear about the low expectations others have of them. Your investment has helped change this narrative, empowering individuals to see their potential and worth—both to humanity and to God. This is a gift beyond measure.

Through a variety of services and programs, we meet people exactly where they are in their life journeys. Some seek resources to build spiritual foundations or foster hope. Others look for tools to develop skills, confidence, and independence. Many seek supportive networks or ways to improve physical wellness. Because of your generosity, we have been able to inspire, equip, and uplift countless individuals.

In March 2025, I shared with the Board of Directors my plan to retire at the end of July. This decision came after much thought, prayer, and counsel. Serving as your partner in this ministry for nearly ten years has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I am filled with gratitude for the work we've done together to be a beacon of hope and to light the way for so many.

With deepest gratitude,



Diane Thurber
President, Christian Record Services (2015 – July 2025)



Diane Thurber

The Incoming President's Vision

Stepping into the role of President in October 2025, I was immediately struck by the incredible foundation Diane, our dedicated team, and you—our generous partners—have built. Diane's decade of faithful leadership has left an indelible mark on this ministry, and it is a profound honor to carry this work forward.

As I review the impact we've made together over this transitional year, I am amazed by what your generosity has accomplished. In 2025, we delivered more than 87,000 resources and welcomed over 400 new members to our CRS family. Behind every one of those numbers is a real person who found connection, spiritual growth, and a community that truly understands them.

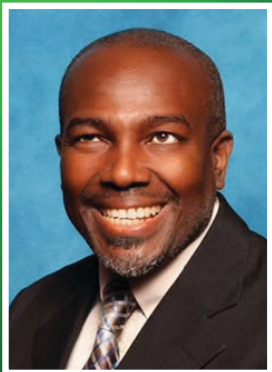
While leadership may change, our mission remains steadfast. As we look toward 2026 and beyond, we are committed to reaching even more individuals living with blindness or low vision, ensuring that no one must navigate their journey alone.

Thank you for your unwavering trust and partnership during this exciting season of transition. We could not do this without you.

In faithful partnership,



Dexter Thomas, DMin
President, Christian Record Services (Oct 2025 – Present)



Dexter Thomas



Partner With Us 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.

Online:
CRSB.org/gift

Call:
402.488.0981,
option 4

Mail:
PO Box 6097
Lincoln, NE
68506

2025

Events and Releases

JAN

CRS makes the front page of the local newspaper, highlighting World Braille Day.



MAR

Diane Thurber, President of CRS, announced plans for retirement after 10 years of leadership at the ministry.



MAY

Pathways to Health brings the team to St Louis, meeting community members in need of vision care.



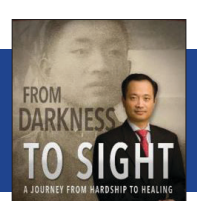
JULY

CRS attends the National Federation for the Blind convention in New Orleans and GC Session in St. Louis.



SEPT

From Darkness to Sight, the story of how laser eye surgery was invented, by Ming Wang is released in audio.



NOV

3ABN airs a CRS program entitled The Quiet Crisis, an initiative to reach people at the point of diagnosis.



FEB

CRS and the mission are shared on the local news station.



APR

Celebrated 70 years of Vantage Point audio magazine which had it's beginning in 1955.



JUNE

Six collegiate students are announced as the Anne Lowe Scholarship recipients.



AUG

Annual Day of Giving features Liz's story of forgiveness and the cause of her blindness.



OCT

Dexter Thomas, DMin, is announced as the new President of CRS.



DEC

Christmas Gifts, Vol. 2 by Helen Heavirland is released in large print, braille, and audio.



2025

Impact By the Numbers

MEMBERS

17,275
Memberships



401
New Members

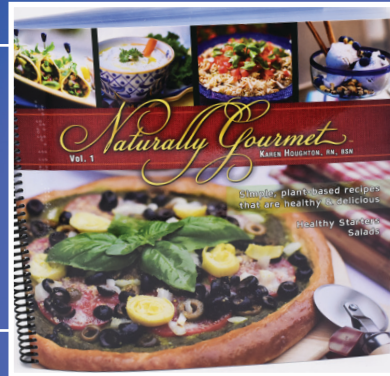


TOTAL RESOURCES

87,382
Resources
Delivered



BOOKS, MAGAZINES, & MORE

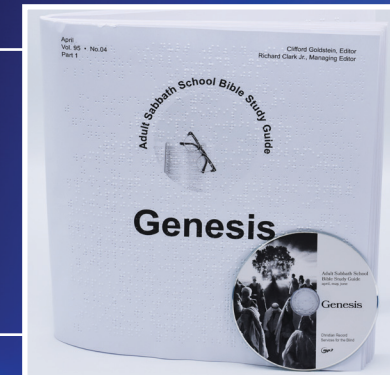


672

Braille Books
Mailed

73,255

Magazines
Mailed



1,957

Large Print Books
Mailed



683

Articles/Tracts
Mailed



570

Full-Vision Books™
Mailed



4,204

Audio Books Lent



2,972

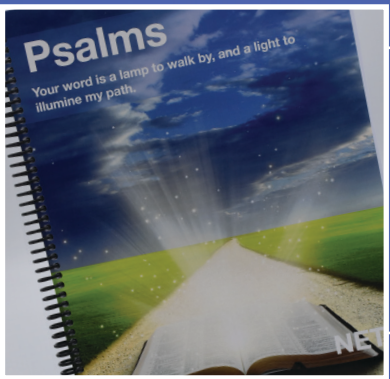
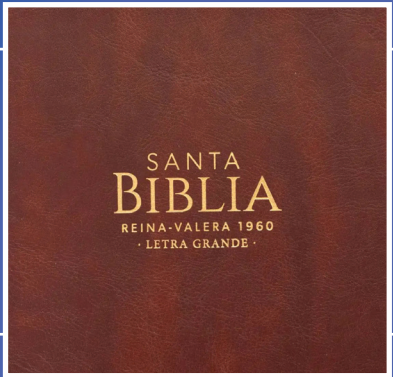
Digital Media
Accessed
Online



BIBLES & BIBLE SCHOOL

153

Bibles Mailed



2,591

Bible Portions Mailed



305

Bible Lessons Mailed



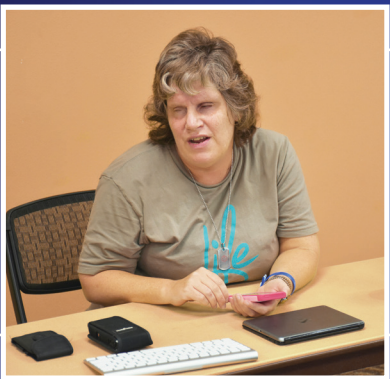
20

Bible School Certificates Awarded

PHONEFAITH®

882

Call-in Programs



353

Participants



PHONEFAITH® ESPAÑOL

21

Call-in Programs



33

Participants



NATIONAL CAMPS FOR BLIND CHILDREN

8

Partner Camp
Locations



87

Camper Experiences

ANNE LOWE SCHOLARSHIPS

6

Scholarships
Awarded



\$12,000

Total Awarded

2025 Member Testimonials

Your contribution translates directly into life-changing outcomes. Here are just a few examples of the profound impact your support delivered in 2025.



"Braille has been my window to the world. I still remember the first time I felt the raised dots beneath my fingers and realized they weren't just symbols — they were keys to independence, knowledge, and connection. Through braille, I can read the Bible, study Sabbath School lessons, and even teach them if asked. These lessons, provided by CRS, help me connect with God, grow my faith, and fully participate in church ministry."

What makes CRS' braille so special is not only the mission behind it but also the exceptional quality of the materials. For people like me, these materials are a lifeline to spiritual growth and practical living."

Claire

"I found out Ava was blind not long after she was born. At first, I felt completely unprepared. I didn't know what life would look like for her—or for me as her mom. When Ava was 21 months old, someone told me about CRS. That call changed everything. For the first time, I felt like I had a team behind me. CRS wasn't just sending materials—they were helping me build a foundation for Ava: spiritually, educationally, socially, and emotionally."

Ava loves her ZooBud! The Full-Vision Books™ let her brothers read to her as she explores braille, and they describe the pictures. We appreciate you and your services so much!"

Maya



2025

Member Testimonials

“My life was forever changed when I was just 15 years old. In a moment of unimaginable violence, I lost my sight. It’s hard to describe the complete and sudden darkness that enveloped my world. Coming home blind after such trauma felt like stepping into another kind of darkness. Everything I knew about navigating the world was gone. I didn’t just need practical help; I desperately needed connection. I needed a community that understood.”

That’s where CRS and the PhoneFaith® program became Liz’s lifeline. It was an opportunity to connect with others that healed her spirit and filled the void of loneliness.

Liz



Grandmother Reba, who longed to connect with her 4-year-old grandchild, can now hold a children’s book in her hands and share the joy of reading.

“CRS is such a blessing. As a grandma, I am so excited to read the storybooks to my 4-year-old grandchild.”

Reba

“I am a product of Christian Record! The impact in my life is priceless!!!”

Nereida



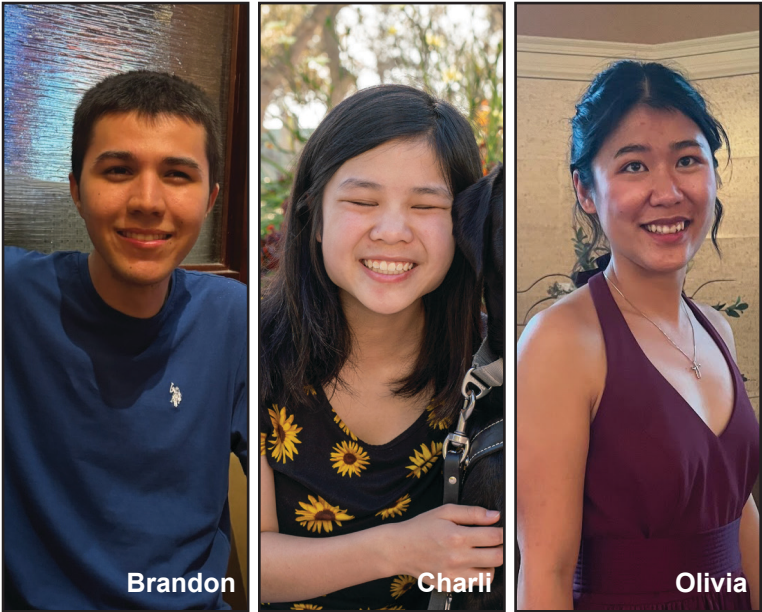
2025

Spotlight on Scholarships

Brandon survived pediatric liver cancer, a battle that left him with permanent vision and hearing loss. Instead of being defined by this, he is earning a master’s in clinical Mental Health Counseling with a 4.0 GPA. His life’s mission is to use his testimony to “encourage, motivate, and inspire others” through their own dark times.

A future leader from Auburn University, a double major in Accounting and Law & Justice, is already a decorated leader. **Charli** was a drum major in her high school marching band, a 4-H Tech Changemaker teaching technology skills in her community, and now plans to pursue a CPA and a law degree to defend ethical practices in the business world.

Olivia was born in China with cataracts and told she would never ride a bike. She is now a US citizen, pursuing a degree in special education. Olivia dreams of becoming an inclusive classroom teacher, ensuring someone understands every student’s needs from the inside out, declaring that every child is “God’s Masterpiece.”



An adrenaline junkie with Achromatopsia, **Raymond** refused to stop playing football. He mastered the center position, practicing until he could deliver 20 “perfect snaps” in a row. He became a certified welder at 17. He is the first licensed bioptic driver (using regular glasses with a small telescope) in Pennsylvania and, in his spare time, he drag-races a 1978 Mustang II. He’s now studying to “BE the boss, not have a boss.”

The son of Nigerian immigrants grew up challenging cultural stigmas around disability. After joining the National Federation of the Blind, he found his calling. Today, **Joshua** is a US citizen and the 2nd Vice President of the National Association of Blind Students. He interned at Unilever, and after earning a master’s in finance from Georgetown, plans to build a nonprofit to promote financial literacy in underrepresented communities.

Teagan, a former Colorado State FFA President, is turning her life experience with vision loss and her family’s background as first responders into a powerful mission. She is studying to start an Equine Assisted Therapy business focused on helping veterans and others diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Injury.

2025 Donor Statements

"My journey with CRS is long and deep. I plan to continue to support the ministry the rest of my life."

Dee

"I grew up with a close friend who was blind. I remember how hard it was for her to get books she could actually read. I give to Christian Record Services because I want to make sure people like my friend always have the materials they need."

Elizabeth

"I use your services myself, so I know how important this is. I give a little bit back because I want to make sure you can keep reaching other people with vision loss."

Jhenncea

"I donate because of my grandmother. She received services from CRS and she was just so happy to get the audio stories. Thank you for what you did for her."

Janelle



2025 Consolidated Statement of Activities

INCOME STATEMENT 2025

INCOME

Contributions	\$1,820,125
Legacies and Bequests	\$201,622
Investments	\$208,539
Other Income	\$117,943
Total Income	\$2,348,229

EXPENSES

Program Services

Personal Services	\$808,081
Production of Periodicals	\$84,837
Lending Library	\$548,810
Public Information and Education	\$436,346
Camps and Other Direct Services	\$71,654
Program Services Total	\$1,949,728

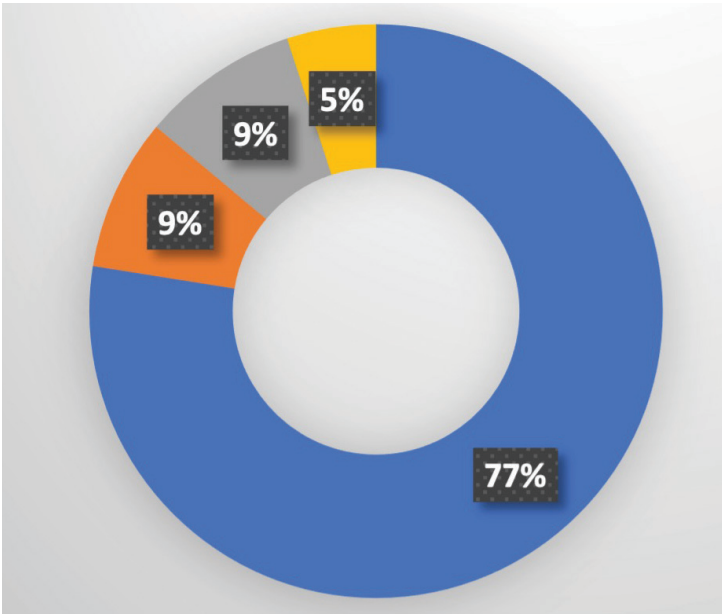
Supporting Activities

Fundraising	\$521,873
Administration	\$320,435
Supporting Activities Total	\$842,308

Total Expenses	\$2,792,036
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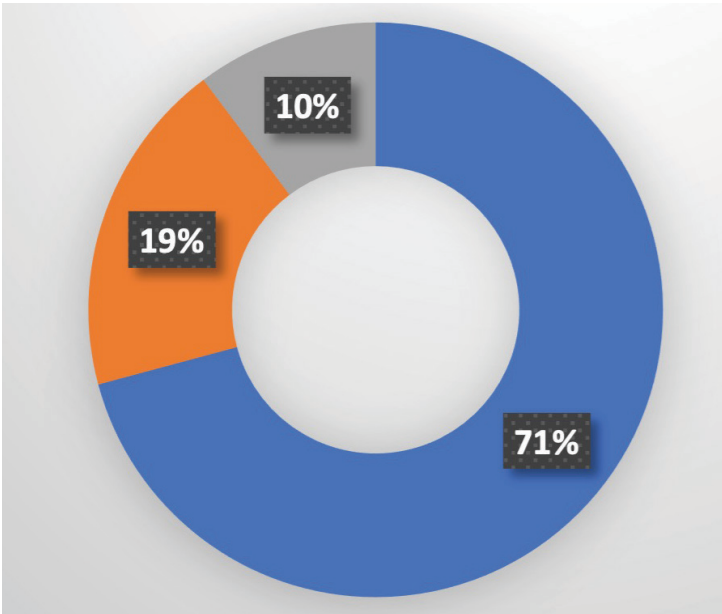
Net Operating Gain (Loss)	(\$443,807)
Net Assets Beginning	\$8,962,165
Net Assets Ending	\$8,550,111

Income



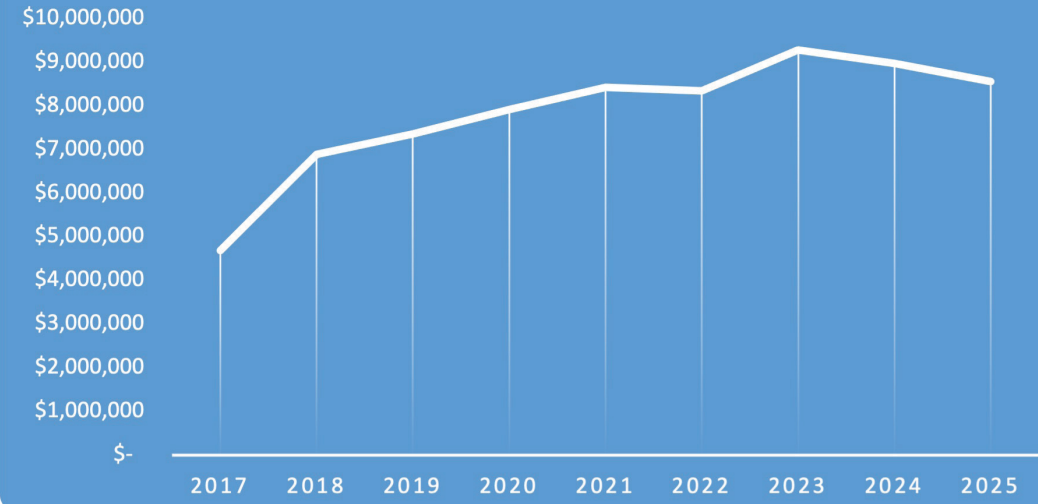
- 1. **Contributions: 77%**
(individual, organization, corporation, and foundation)
- 2. **Legacies and Bequests: 9%**
- 3. **Investments and Other Income: 9%**
- 4. **Other Income: 5%**

Expenses

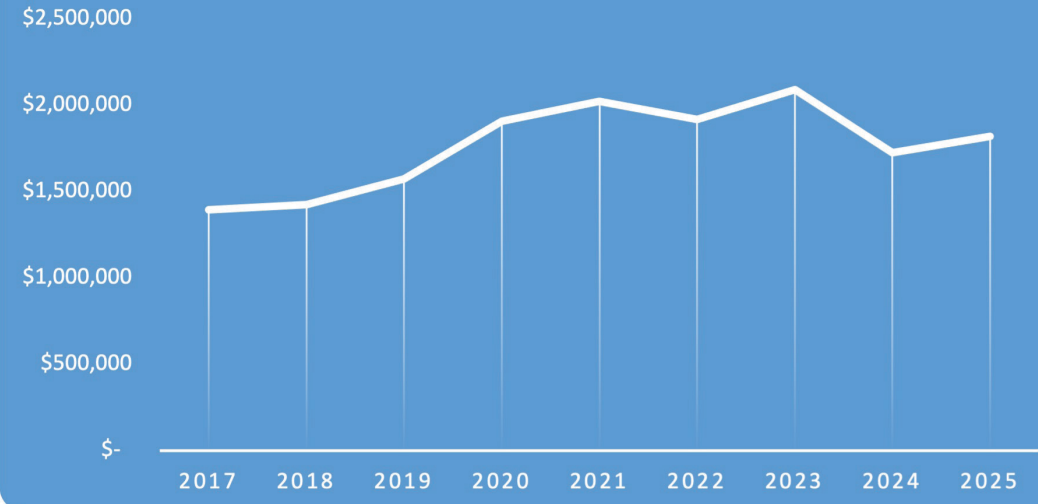


- 1. **Programs and Services: 71%**
- 2. **Fundraising: 19%**
- 3. **Administration: 10%**

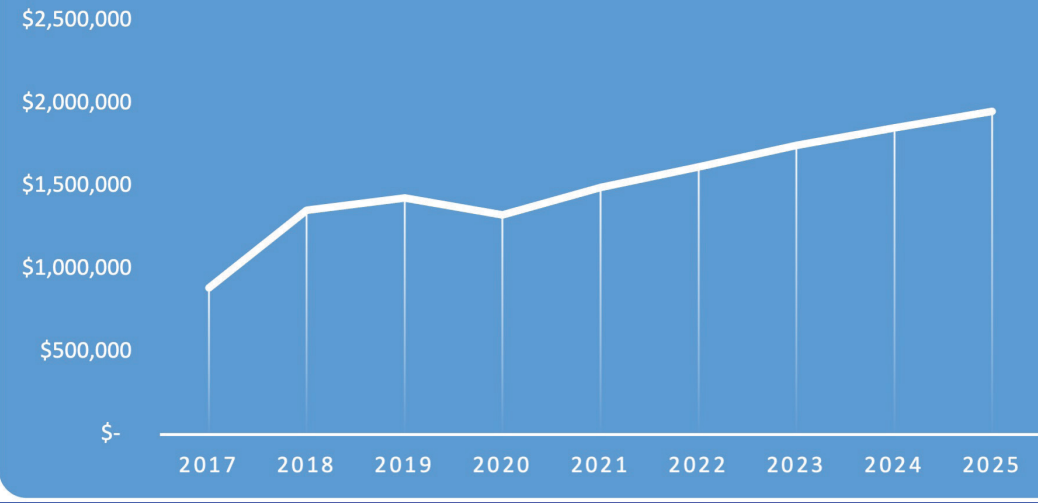
GROWTH IN NET ASSETS



GROWTH IN CONTRIBUTION INCOME



GROWTH IN SERVICE SPENDING



2025 Financial Statement Summary

A Year of Transition, Resilience, and Unwavering Commitment

In 2025, your generosity allowed CRS to deliver over 87,000 resources to 17,200 members worldwide. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us and are proud to report that nearly **70% of all expenditures** went directly to these life-enriching programs.

We are thrilled to report that your overall giving grew in 2025. Total contributions reached \$1.82 million, bringing our total income from all sources to \$2,348,229. Thank you for stepping up to support this community!

Understanding Our Operating Budget

While overall giving increased, 2025 still presented a challenge for our daily operating budget. Entering the year, our Board set a bold, record-breaking goal of **\$1,370,000** specifically for unrestricted “general contributions.” We ultimately closed the year with **\$1,031,000** in this category.

This \$339,000 gap in our unrestricted operating fund occurred during a season of transition. We navigated a planned mid-year executive leadership change, which naturally paused some major fundraising momentum. At the same time, we experienced the undeniable impact of inflation, which drove up the costs of producing and shipping our physical resources. Total operating expenses rose by roughly \$170,000 compared to the previous year.

Mission Over Margins

Faced with rising costs and a gap in general funding, our leadership made a conscious, mission-driven decision: we would not scale back our vital services. To ensure no member lost access to the free resources they rely on, we utilized our financial reserves to cover the resulting **\$443,807** net operating loss. Thanks to decades of careful stewardship, CRS remains highly stable, ending the year with **\$8.55 million in net assets**.

Looking Forward

While our reserves provided a crucial safety net in 2025, our priority is building a sustainable future. To proactively address our funding goals and guide our strategic growth, we established a new Development Advisory Committee this year. This dedicated group of experts is working closely with leadership to strengthen our fundraising initiatives and ensure long-term stability.

Ultimately, your unrestricted gifts remain the engine of this ministry. By investing in the CRS *general fund* today, you partner with us to meet rising operational costs while keeping our materials free, accessible, and widely available for generations to come. Thank you for standing with us through seasons of growth and transition.

2025 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*
(Jan-July)
Secretary
Lincoln, Nebraska



Dexter Thomas*
(Oct-Present)
Secretary
Lincoln, Nebraska

Board Members

Andrea Ahrens
Jackie Anderson
Tony Anobile
Doris Burdick (Jan-Oct)
Dan Carlson*
Judy Glass*
Minner Labrador
Matthew Orian*
Larry Romrell
Dexter Thomas (Jan-Sept)
Topher Thompson*
Gary Thurber (Jan-July)
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
402-488-0981, option 4



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!

