

WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY



2012 ANNUAL REPORT



REACHING
Out

who needs WTBBL?

Do you know someone who:

- Has a visual impairment?
- Is blind?
- Has a physical condition that makes holding books and turning pages difficult?
- Has a reading disability?

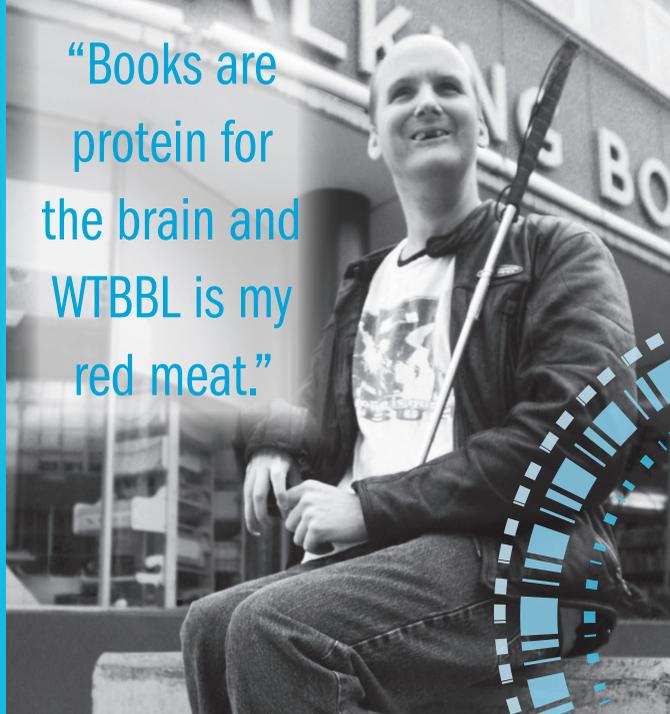
then YOU need WTBBL!



Mike summed up the importance of WTBBL with these great words: "Books are protein for the brain and WTBBL is my red meat."

Mike Edwards is an avid reader and longtime patron of WTBBL. He reads his books in audio and extensively in braille. Mike is blind and has cerebral palsy and is a member of the Patron Advisory Council (PAC) representing patrons with physical disabilities.

"Books are protein for the brain and WTBBL is my red meat."



"I love everything about WTBBL... it is so great to listen and continue to read."



George Favors is a WTBBL patron originally from Louisiana. He served in the Army both in the States and in Germany. When he began losing his vision, George left the Army and now lives in Seattle working at the Lighthouse for the Blind. As a veteran, he appreciates the rule that veterans of the armed forces receive priority service from WTBBL and other network libraries for the blind and physically handicapped. George says that he loves everything about WTBBL and since losing his vision, "it is so great to listen and continue to read."

Shalease Anderson is a 17 year old visually impaired student that loves to read. She gets the majority of her books from WTBBL and enjoys participating in the summer reading program. "They have a large variety of talking books, and braille books for people of all ages. It's a lot of fun, it helps you learn, and it is a great way for kids to spend their summer."

"WTBBL has a friendly staff and they always help me find the books I'm interested in."



OUR MISSION is to build community and provide equal access to information and reading materials for Washington residents unable to read standard print.



WTBBL Program Director Danielle Miller

It has been another wonderful year at your Talking Book & Braille Library thanks to your continued support. While challenges may lie ahead, our service is critical to Washington residents unable to read standard print and we will continue to provide the best service possible. WTBBL is much more than a pleasure reading library. It is a source and support for literacy, education, and technology training; we build community and provide resources for individuals living alone, with illness, or no ability to travel or experience the world outside of a phone call or a book; we bring children and families together through reading and events, and help people read how they want when they want. Yet we have work to do; over 12% of Washington residents are eligible for our service and if we work together we can help more people, families and agencies become aware of our unique library. Read on to learn what some of our patrons and colleagues say about WTBBL.

For many people with significant loss of vision, or other health issues, introducing them to “Talking Books” and the digital player can be life changing. Their faces brighten as they spread their imaginary wings and fly away to the four corners of the world, sharing in new knowledge and exciting adventures.

– Peninsula Rehabilitation Services,
Carl & Cathy Jarvis



“I have always loved to read books and WTBBL has been a life line for me.”

– Nathan Brannon

Nathan and Julie Brannon, longtime WTBBL patrons



youth programs

Reaching Out to Children and Teens

Staff and volunteers at WTBBL strive to empower individuals and facilitate access to information, resources, and community in all we do. We recognized that we weren't providing service to children and schools at the level we believe in. But we used your extremely generous donations to WTBBL to revitalize our Youth Services Program. Now WTBBL has an outstanding Youth Services Librarian and the ability to better connect with schools and teachers. Our goal is that every child in Washington State who is unable to read standard print will have access to books and reading beginning at birth and continuing throughout their lives.

WTBBL instills a love of reading and fosters a habit of lifelong learning in children and young adult readers through our interactive Youth Services Program. This year, we added new books to our collection, including new board books, print-braille, and large print for beginning readers. We continue to advocate for braille literacy and support students and teachers with braille materials. Fun and accessible programming is offered for our youth patrons with the Summer Reading Program, an Open House Celebration, and the teen-exclusive Poetry Slam. Reaching out into the community, we visit schools and present at conferences across the state.

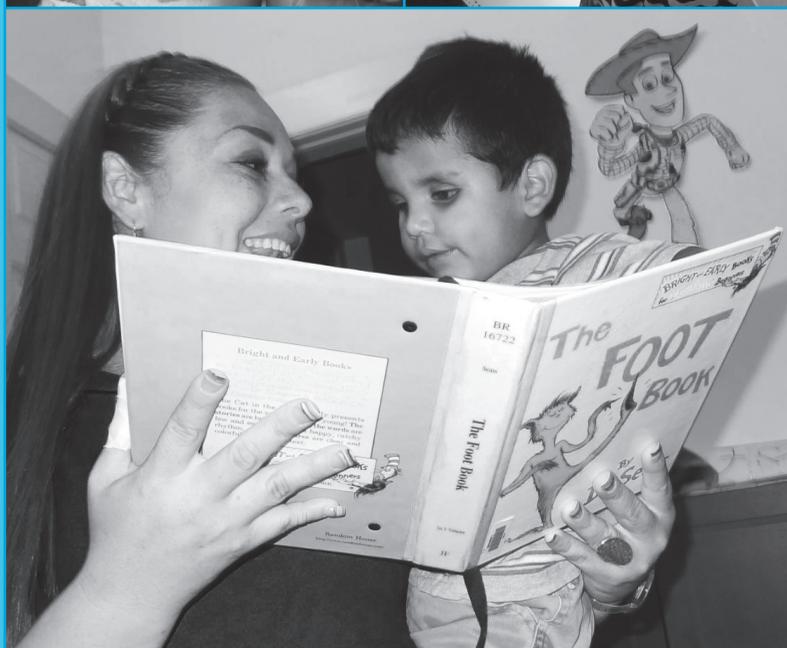


Above: Marc T., youth patron browsing WTBBL digital books.
Right: Mandy Gonnson, youth librarian, Asha A., WTBBL youth patron studying braille
Bottom: Mother and son enjoying donated print-braille books



Our goal is that every child unable to read standard print will have access to books and reading beginning at birth.

– Mandy Gonnson, youth services librarian



technology

Keeping Technology Accessible

Much like everyone else, WTBBL has seen continuous change and growth in technology, the format of our materials, and how we provide service. Digital talking books have been an almost indescribable improvement for our patrons and a greater draw for prospective patrons. In fact, 2012 saw the largest number of new borrowers since July 2008. WTBBL has one of the highest percentages in the country of patrons downloading books at 19% of all borrowers. Growth in technology has also necessitated and allowed us to expand our training and instruction program. Our librarians traveled all over Washington in 2012 providing training to public librarians on our service, downloading books, and building a team to assist our patrons through local access to technology wherever they may live.



Shannon Curry, WTBBL Electronic Services & Instruction Librarian



Eura Szuwalski,
WTBBL Electronic
Services & Instruction
Librarian



One of the most popular additions to library services for the blind and physically handicapped is BARD. BARD, which stands for braille and audio reading download. It is a website with thousands of audio books and magazines and books in web-braille that library users can access

from home or anywhere they have internet access.

WTBBL is always thinking about new ways to provide instruction to our patrons and

improve access. We work with the readers' advisors to provide phone training on topics from downloading books from the BARD site to

using our online catalog. We work with patrons, librarians and teachers either at the library or in their community to learn how to use the technology involved with our service. Providing support and referrals on using assistive technology is also critical to us. We provide

guidance and support for other technology and commercial devices whenever possible. However, we will always work to bridge the digital divide and make

materials available to patrons without access to the internet or commercial devices. WTBBL won't leave anyone behind.

I've been a library user my whole life. When BARD became available, I was an early adopter. I loved the idea of instantaneous access and being able to download books. With BARD, the WTBBL website, and other resources such as Bookshare, Learning Ally and Audible, I have access to thousands of books I might not otherwise have been able to read in a timely manner.

– Shannon Curry

volunteers & staff

Our People, Our Strength

WTBBL continued to take on new initiatives and was again recognized for the work we do providing service to Washingtonians unable to read standard print. On June 5, 2012, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn signed a proclamation making that day “Washington Talking Book & Braille Library Day” and presented us with an award for the “Empowerment of Individuals with Disabilities.” We couldn’t do this without the participation of more than 300 volunteers and our small staff of 18.

“The reason I volunteer at WTBBL is simple. My time here is appreciated – that’s all most volunteers ask. I’m made to feel welcome when I arrive and that I’ll be missed when I’m absent. Every staff person allows me to feel a part of fulfilling WTBBL’s mission.”

– Stephen McCarthy

The Patron Advisory Council (PAC) is comprised of volunteers who represent people who are blind, visually impaired, with a physical disability in addition to or other than blindness, deaf-blind, reading disabled, a teen or parent of a child using WTBBL, a veteran of the armed forces, and the two consumer organizations for the blind. The Council provides advice and recommendations to WTBBL regarding policies and procedures and advocates increasing the funding for and promotion of library services to all current and future patrons of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library.

Members of the Patron Advisory Council from top to bottom: Susan Washington, Mike Edwards, Karen Johnson, Rebecca Bell





The average talking book borrower listened to about 363 hours, or 15 straight days, worth of reading material in 2012.

I started at WTBBL in 1997 and I quickly learned that THIS is where I am supposed to be. Reading letters from patrons letting us know how important our services are to them, makes me realize the difference we are making in so many lives. Over time, I have realized that this is my dream job.

— Sally Jo Hagen

Sally Jo Hagen, WTBBL
Shipping Supervisor,
getting cozy in the stacks



Kim Wyman, Secretary of State

When we talk about the ideal of “government of the people, by the people, for the people,” we have to match words with deeds. Our government needs to ensure that it and its services are accessible to all citizens, whether it’s elections or the access to information provided by libraries.

I’ve dedicated myself to realizing this goal as a public official. When I was Thurston County Auditor, I enjoyed working with our county’s Accessible Voting Committee to make voting more accessible to all of our voters. It was a great learning experience for me, and helped me understand the challenges facing people unable to read standard print. It also helped me appreciate the dedication of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library’s staff and volunteers to offer alternative ways for the library’s patrons to enjoy literature and grow and develop through access to information of all kinds.

This is why I’m honored that WTBBL is part of my office. This one-of-a-kind library continues to play an important and positive role bringing critical access to information, materials, and the joy of reading to eligible Washingtonians. I look forward to helping WTBBL reach out and expand the number of patrons that it serves, and continue expanding relationships with schools, teachers and families.

I am grateful to the hundreds of donors who gave \$573,739 in gifts to WTBBL in 2012, a banner year. These gifts included donations from individuals, foundations, corporations and the estates of a number of loyal patrons. Your gifts allowed us to improve our service, especially to youth, and to continue making reading accessible to all. Not only did you give funds, but YOU told others about WTBBL, helping us reach new patrons. You enthusiastically shared brochures and bookmarks and put up posters around your community. Our donors make a huge difference in so many lives here in Washington. Thank you and keep reaching out and spreading the word about WTBBL.



K
Secretary of State

You know how it is ... when you have good news you want to tell everyone. The good news I bring to you is that our Washington Talking Book & Braille Library changes lives!

Through provision of library services, thousands of individuals in Washington are able to have reading material in the format they need, whether it is audio books, braille books, or books in large print. And those who read are armed with the power of information.

WTBBL connects people throughout the State and strives to serve even more. That's where you can help us. If you know someone who is blind, visually impaired, or has a physical or reading disability, let them know about this great service. That's what I did when I moved into a new neighborhood last year. I learned that my neighbor across the street was legally blind and developing macular degeneration. So I told him about WTBBL.

I don't need to convince you that WTBBL provides a valuable service for Washington. Join us, won't you, in spreading the good news.

I thank you,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Randall C. Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rand Simmons, PhD
State Librarian

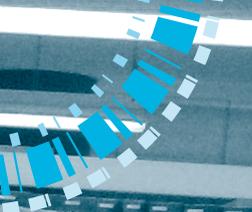


Rand Simmons, State Librarian

donors



All WTBBL staff thank you for your support and being part of our family.



Legacies: That all may read

Last year WTBBL received gifts from the estates of generous donors totaling \$407,624. This phenomenal outpouring of bequest gifts is because patrons and friends of the library planned their gifts and included WTBBL in their Wills and estate plans. Unless restricted to a particular use, bequests to WTBBL are directed toward growing our endowments with the Seattle Foundation and the Inland Northwest Community Foundation in Spokane. With recent bequests our endowments now total \$2.4 million. A portion of the interest earned each year is reinvested. WTBBL receives the remainder to support our programs. Recently we dedicated the annual endowment interest to support the Youth Services Librarian position. That position is already paying off with greater involvement of children and youth in WTBBL and better outreach to parents, schools and others who can refer kids to WTBBL services. Youth services have been restored because bequests have built the endowments to a level that can support this position.

If you are interested in learning more about planned gifts or how to include WTBBL in your Will please contact Carleen Jackson, carleen.jackson@sos.wa.gov, 360-902-4126.

Regular gifts can be made with a credit card by phone or online at www.wtbbl.org, 1-800-542-0866 or simply mail a check to WTBBL.

However you choose to support WTBBL, YOU make a difference.

We are very grateful to the following for including WTBBL in their estate plans:

- Estate of Inge Asher
 - Estate of Eugene Ditmars Connor
 - Estate of Goldie F. Ericson
 - Estate of Rudolph M. Hemmerling
 - Estate of Alan Koch
 - Estate of Marietta McManigal Ward
 - Estate of Elizabeth Welty
 - Wylde Family Foundation
- 

Thank you

Thank you to all our donors
who gave between July 1, 2011,
and June 30, 2012

Geraldine Aarons
Milt Adams
Nancy Adams
Reno Ahlvin
Marion Aldrich
Sharon Alexander
Ruth Almond
Margaret Alskog & Annette
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Janice Ames
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M Juanita Christopher
Jennifer Chung
Anne Cisney
Lois Clark
Dudley Clark
Scott McDonald & Kelli Clark
Velma Clark
Marilynn Clingan
Betty Cloyd
Carol Cloyes

Note: As a parent of a first time participant in the program, I just wanted to say, I was so impressed with the program! Luke's vision issues have been a challenge as we've tried to motivate him to read regularly. This program made reading fun, and having the star chart was a great motivator. I was so thrilled to see his interest level go up. Thank you, thank you!

Eldon Coberly
Birdie Cochran
Warren Cochran
Trinity Cochran
Donna Coke
Elvira Colistro
Philip Collette
Donald Cone
Edward & Josephine Conlon
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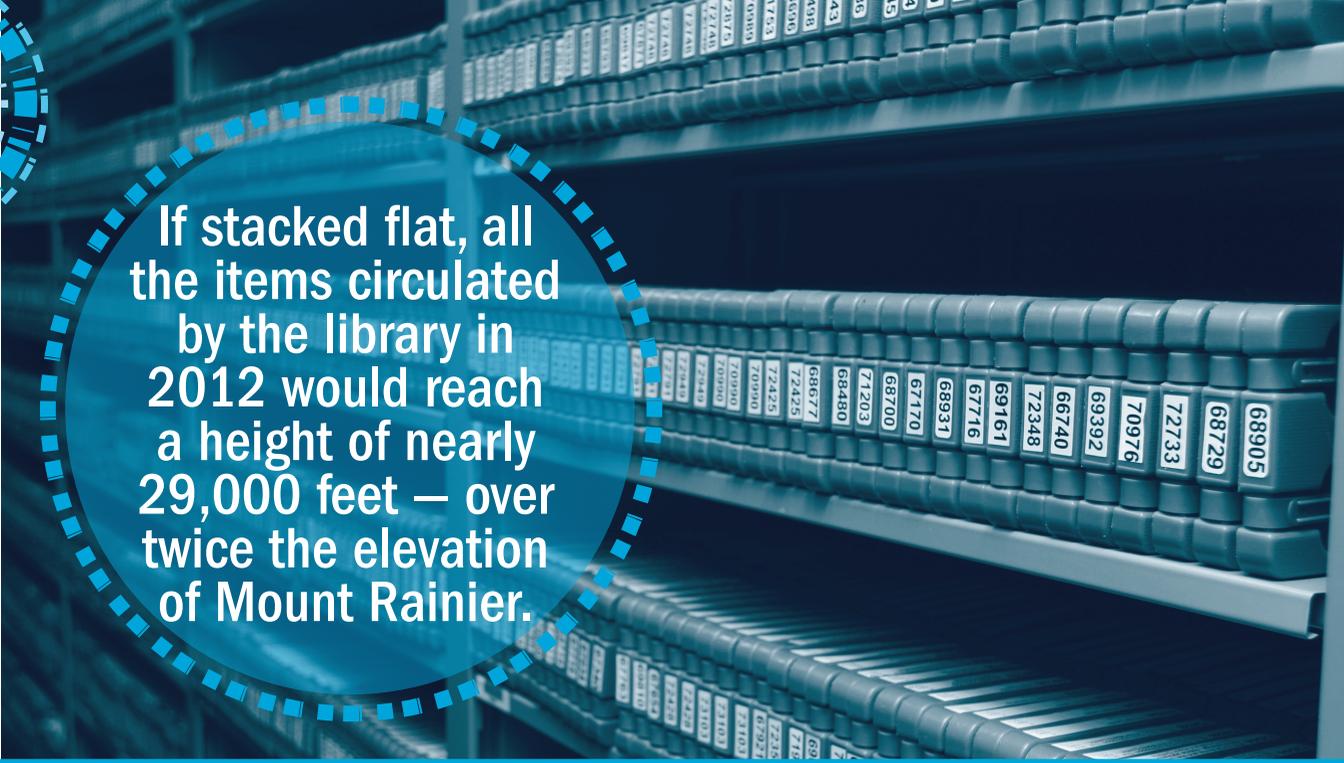
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Clarence Doane
Bessie Dockter
Caleb Dockter
Fred Dompier
Gerald Dompier
Marilyn Donnelly
Charles Dorian
James Dotson
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Sidney Eggleston
Emma Eiesland
Mary Elliot
Paul Elliott
Frances Elliott
L Elliott
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Elbert Ellsworth
Edith Elonka
Lynda Emel
Jean Emerson
Sally Erickson
Wilma Erickson

Estate of Goldie Ericson
Isabel Ernest
Jennifer & Jeffrey Ernst
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Richard Evans
Carol Eversoll
Ann Fagan
Woodrow Fagerlie
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Nancy Fay
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Wanda Fittje
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Virginia Geist
Richard Genovese
Marcia Geving
Keith Gibson

William & Nancy Gilbaugh
Helen Giles
Patrick Gill
Ariel Gillon
Mary Jo Girardot
Wallace Gobble
Jack Gobel
Sari Goldbaum
Lisa Golden
Shirley Gonska
Sandra Gonyon
James Gooderham
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Stephen Gornick
Jeanne Gough
Greg Gould
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Helen Grafmyre
Gail Graham
Janet Gray
Carrol Gray
Clement Gray
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Greater Everett Area Council of the Blind
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William Greene
Michael Greenhaw
Mary Grimm
Loo-Ann Grove
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Ruth Humphrey
Roxana Hunt
Patricia Hunt
Buryl Hunter
Orbalee Hunter
Dianna Inch
Earl Ingebright
Angela Ingham
James Inglis
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Lee & Margaret Jacobson
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Jeanne Jeffers
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Gloria Jensen
Patricia Jines
Barbara Johnson
Ronald Johnson
Patricia Johnson
Forrest Johnson
J Frank Johnson
Lilburn & Doris Johnson
Karen Johnson & Douglas L Hilde
Raymond Johnson
Shirley Johnson
Raymond Johnston
Evelyn Joneli
Ted Jones
Edna Jones
David Junius
Leda Kalilimoku
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Angela Korn
Beverly Krembs
Wilfried Kressner
Kenneth & Martha Kuehn
Henry Kuhlman
Walter Kunschak
Frances Kvalheim
Joan Ladeburg

Eileen LaFond
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Harley McCabe
John & Deborah McCallum
James McCane
Robert McCartney
Esther McChesney & Marillen Bouck
David & Beverly McClelland



If stacked flat, all
the items circulated
by the library in
2012 would reach
a height of nearly
29,000 feet — over
twice the elevation
of Mount Rainier.

Dixie McDaniel
Raydene McDaniels
Patricia McDougall
James McElroy
David McGinnis
Gail McGrath
Rozella McClrath
Molly McLroy
Christine McKenzie
William McKenzie, Jr.
Joy McKnight
Gary McLaren
Suzanne & John McLaughlin
Hildegard McLoughlin
Florence McMullin
Anna Medina & Brett Lewis
Paul Messner
Nancy Michaels
Microsoft Corporation
George Mielke & Erich Hein
Louis Miley
Leslie Miller
Carol Miller
Garry Miller
Bliss Miller
Lorriane Miller
Jeannine Miller
Lillian Mills
Ollie Mills
Gwen Minkler
Esti Mintz
Lawrence Mitchell
Hilda Mitchell
John Mollan
Catherine Monacelli
Elaine Monesmith
Shirley Monson
Phillip Montague
George & Winnie Moore
Enid Moots
Mary Morgan
Georgianna Morgan

Madeline Morris
Margaret Morrison & Jean
Morrison-Pace
Bernard Mullerleile
Katherine Murphie
Christine Murphy
Estelle Musso
Jean Myers
Ellenor Naden
James & Marion Nancarrow
Marlene Naubert
Beverly Neff
Albert Nelson
Alvin & Therese Nelson
Elinor Nelson & Cindy Chapman
Margaret Newell
Shirley Newton
Estelle Niermann
Estelle Nilsen
Warren Noel
Richard & Ella Nolt
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Marian Nute
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Nancy Olson
Irene Olson
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Leona Olson
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Rose Osmondson
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Clarissa Pearce
Marilyn Pearson
Florence Pedersen
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James Perry
Waa Peterson
Augusta Petroff
Connie Phelps
Charles Phill
Martin Phillips
Karen Phillips & Verna Kusanke
Norman Pickering & Lois Ruskell
Deborah & Rick Piercey
Carolyn Pilcher
Florence Pimentel
Joan Pinger
John Plumlee
Karl & Patricia Pohl
John Poindexter
Magdalen Pojtinger
Janice & Gerald Post
Norma Lee Priel
Marjorie Priest
Robert & Phyllis Pulfer
Florence Pung
Nina Purcell
Ray Purser
Louise Purvis
Karin Quinn & Magda I. Hoefler
Severin Raam
Helen Ramspeck & Dawn Beatt
Charity Ranger
Weldon Rau
Amy Ravenholt
Marjorie Rearick
Sherry Redinger
Rochelle Reed
Shirley Reese
Robert Reese
Wanda Reimer
Judy Ren

My sincere "thank you" for being there when I needed you! I have had a successful surgery on my eyes and, miraculously I can see again! Losing my eyesight was truly the most dramatic experience of my life! You can't imagine how much your service meant to me. God Bless you!

Ruth Rentz
Helen Rettig
Maxine Rhodes
Jane Richard
Richland Central Lions
Howard & Carol Rieckers
Janalie Rieger
Leontine Riekstins
Eleanor & Felix Robertiello
Marjorie Roberts
Donzell Robinson
Dores Robinson
Lois Robinson
Anne & Margery Robison
Florence Rodriguez
Grace Rogge-Boyd
Lois Roos
Vivian Rorick
Rhoda Roscoe
Donnie Rostedt & Virginia Horr
Eugene Roth
Kathleen Roundy
Irene Roupe
Oakley & Lena Rowe
David Rowlands
Charles & Linda Russell
Beverly Ruuth
James Ryan
Leona Ryba
Aileen Ryder-McLagan
Margaret Sabine
Donald Samel
Virginia Samuelson
Gloria Sanborn
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Lydia Simonson
LaRetta Simpson
Muriel Simpson
Marcia Slack
Bette Slater
Judy Slater
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Betty Smith
Dana Smith
James Smith, Jr.
Keith Smith
Ladd Smith
Laura Smith
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A close-up photograph of a person's hands typing on a Braille keyboard. The keyboard is dark with white Braille characters on the keys. The person's left hand is on the left side of the keyboard, and their right hand is on the right side. The background is dark and out of focus.

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