

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The American Council of the Blind of Ohio



Mission and Purpose

The American Council of the Blind of Ohio is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality and equality of life for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

We offer information and referral for resources, training programs, emotional support, recreational opportunities, scholarships, and more.

Our purpose is to support a sense of community and to ensure full participation in all aspects of life for persons who are blind or visually impaired, leading to an increased quality of life.

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Summary of Accomplishments in 2017

In 2017, we provided matching grants to one member and two chapters. The individual purchased a Victor Reader Trekker; the chapters used their money to fund local programs or to help chapter members attend the Ohio-Indiana conference and convention.

Our membership in Community Shares of Mid Ohio (CS) has continued to give us contacts, as well as funds. We had exhibits in workplaces, such as the Charity Fair in the Rhodes Tower, thus educating many people about the work ACB Ohio does for its members. Members of the Columbus chapter spent a second fun day at Dreams On Horseback, thanks to another member of CS who sponsored the trip. One or more of ACBO's members exhibited at the White Cane Expo, held at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's main branch in May; participated in the annual Family Fun and Learning Day in Cleveland in July; presented at a seminar offered by the Choroideremia Foundation in Columbus in October;, and had an exhibit at a vision fair sponsored by Goodwill/Easter Seals in Dayton in October. We used these exhibits and presentations to educate the general public about blindness and related issues.

We offered information and referral services to several hundred individuals and organizations seeking resources, answers to questions about blindness and low vision or products, and solutions to problems ranging from making labels for appliances to trying to find employment. Too often, when people lose vision due to disease or accident, they receive little or no information about what to do next. They have no resources, no one to turn to for guidance, and consequently feel that their lives are over. They feel helpless and hopeless. When they call ACB Ohio, our executive director spends as much time as necessary to educate them about the services available to them and to counsel them in dealing with vision loss, referring them to other services and agencies which can provide direct rehabilitation services as appropriate. When possible, they receive contact information for someone in their part of the state who can assist them further.

Our newsletter, *The Ohio Connection*, is published four times a year in large print, on cassette, sent via email, and put on our website, www.acbohio.org.

The ACB-Ohio website includes a significant amount of up-to-date information on what the organization is doing, pertinent legislation, ways to donate, and chapters around the state.

The 2017 annual conference and convention took place October 20-22 in Sandusky, Ohio, at the Kalahari Resort. For the second time we partnered with ACB of Indiana. Attendees participated in workshops such as assistive technology demonstrations, effective advocacy techniques, and transportation options. Between sessions they browsed the exhibit hall, getting hands-on experience with products, learning about helpful resources, and purchasing candy, jewelry, clothing, and other items.

ACBO awarded scholarships to deserving students and service awards to people and organizations whose generosity and willingness to go the extra mile make the lives of blind and visually impaired people so much better.

The annual summer and winter sports retreats offer a chance to people who are blind and visually impaired to take part in physical and social activities. Punderson State Park hosted the 30th winter event, attended by about 30 people, who spent time outdoors sledding, hiking, or skiing, or went shopping. Indoors they played games, listened to a brief concert on the dulcimer, and talked. The summer retreat took place in Hockingport, Ohio. Attendees participated in such activities as boating, bike riding, jet skiing, tubing, and hiking.

On November 1, 2017, Vicky Prahin became the executive director. Katie Frederick has taken a new position with The Ohio State University.

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Income

Membership Dues	1,400.00
Summer/Winter Retreat	7,000.00
Convention	4000.00
· Vehicle Donation	320.00
· Fundraising Income	1000.00
· Donations	11,000
Grants – Columbus Foundation	75,000.00

Total Income 99,720.00

Gross Profit 3,700

Expense

· Salaries	35,680.00
· Wages	4000.00
· Payroll Expenses	700.00
· FICA tax	3,300.00
· Workers Compensation	200.00
· Rent	4,500.00
· Telephone and Fax	1,764.00
· Licenses	35.00
· Insurance	4,264.00
· Office and Committee Expense	1,293.19
· Legal and Accounting	850.00
· Newsletter Expenses	1,000.00
· Postage	100.00

· Dues and Memberships	512.00
· Dues & Subscriptions	682.00
· Health Insurance	2,640.00
· Board Meeting Expense	2,500.00
· Legislative Seminar Expense	4,500.00
· Travel	500.00
· Summer/Winter Retreats	9,500.00
· Scholarships	2,000.00
· National Convention	3,000.00
· ACBO Convention	10,000.00
· Chapter Support Grants	1,000.00
· Specialty Seminars	500.00
· Website Expense	1,000.00
Total Expense	96,020.00

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND OF OHIO
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND OF OHIO
2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ACBO OFFICERS

President: Jill D Noble, term 1, 2018

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