Dear Friends

On day one of FY 2016, we launched our second book in NBP’s Great Expectations children’s series, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. This #1 *New York Times* bestseller tells a funny story about a group of crayons who rebel against their owner, and includes many descriptions of color—a great introduction for blind kids. Every Great Expectations book also includes free web-based activities that incorporate tactile play, jokes, songs, and engaged listening. NBP also introduced the third book in the series, *Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes*. Pete, a groovy blue cat, takes readers to the library, lunchroom, and playground, and his story’s underlying themes of orientation and mobility are a great fit for young blind readers.

FY 2016 was also the year of the survey for NBP. In order for us to improve programs and understand our constituents better, we began plans to integrate our internal data. These plans included targeted smaller program surveys and a large general survey to thousands of our members, patrons, and donors.

We learned from the Great Expectations program survey which activities our consumers considered most useful (picture descriptions, jokes, and tips for exploring the books’ concepts), so we will continue to focus on making these particular activities robust and engaging in subsequent books. The survey also revealed that a significant number of blind parents were using the program, so we’ve taken steps to offer every aspect of the online activities in braille, electronic braille, or accessible PDFs.

Our work with education was impacted by the transition to UEB (Unified English Braille) with textbooks and standardized tests. Some states began working on plans to transition to UEB and to determine what formats they plan to support for their students. We’re proud that NBP has a talented team of expert transcribers and proofreaders that can provide any format that is needed.

Interest in braille is growing in mainstream corporations as well. Our B2B department has seen a significant increase in demand for print/braille business cards, flyers, and corporate materials. Tactile business cards with braille get more attention, and indirectly help increase mainstream awareness about this special code.

We had a fabulous fundraising gala that recognized teen Connor McLeod for his efforts to add tactile markings to Australia’s paper currency, and our friend Erik Weihenmayer provided an amazing presentation about his harrowing journey kayaking through the Grand Canyon.

In March 2016, NBP exhibited at the international CSUN accessibility conference and officially launched a pair of exciting new products: the B2G, our portable, lower cost refreshable braille computer for the blind, and the Tactile Caliper, a mechanical refreshable braille ruler, created by the 2013 Touch of Genius winner - two MIT doctoral students from India. Products like these help to keep braille relevant in the digital world and are critical for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) applications.

In FY 2017, National Braille Press will celebrate its 90th birthday! We continue to adapt and support our mission to provide information in braille, e-braille, and other accessible formats for the blind and visually impaired. Braille is literacy; it is timeless and just as important in today’s digital world as it was when Louis Braille created it over 190 years ago.

Thank you for your strong allegiance, friendship, and support. We could not do it without you.

Brian A. Mac Donald
President
In FY 2017, National Braille Press will celebrate its 90th birthday! We continue to adapt and support our mission to provide information in braille, e-braille, and other accessible formats for the blind and visually impaired.
FY 16 BOARD
Sue Ammeter
David Antoine Atallah
Christopher Babcock
James Barrow
Deane Blazie
Michael Brown
Tara Gearhart
Jon Goplerud
Daniel J. Hirce
Lisamaria Martinez
Paul McLaughlin, Treasurer
Dr. Lotfi Merabet
Brendan O’Brien
Shelly O’Neill, Clerk
Paul Parravano
Julie Pierog
Nicholas S. Racheotes, PhD, Vice-Chair
William M. Raeder
Matthew Richardson
Neal Rosen
Marcy Scott
Janet Ulwick-Sacca
H. Clifford Watkin, Chair
Frances West

1,087
Readbooks Bags Distributed

National Braille Press thanks you for your strong allegiance, friendship, and support. We could not do it without you.

88 St. Stephen Street
Boston, MA 02115
617.266.6160
nbp.org