For Friends and Supporters of the Kansas Audio-Reader Network

FALL 2017

Sensory Garden: Meet the amazing volunteers who keep our garden beautiful

Audio-Reader Broadcasters Brunch Celebrates Volunteers

15th Annual “For Your Ears Only” Sale a Huge Success
After 46 years we’ve seen a lot of changes around Audio-Reader; just in the past year we’ve changed hours and processes, we’ve reduced costs due to budget cuts, and we’ve said good bye to beloved staff and long-term volunteers.

Things that haven’t changed though are our award winning services, our dedicated volunteers and donors, and our shared commitment to our listeners. We were honored with two IAAIS awards for Excellence in Communication and Marketing and Program of the Year; we reached a significant achievement of over 450 volunteers, and we continue our mission to share the gift of sight through sound for our listeners.

We are so grateful to amazing supporters like you who continue to support our mission, ensuring access to information and the arts for thousands of listeners across Kansas, Missouri, and beyond. On behalf of our entire staff, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of listeners, I thank you for your generous support now more than ever!
Notable Funding

Thank you to the Missouri Council of the Blind for generously donating $2,000 to purchase internet radios and equipment for listeners in the Missouri area.

Our Summer Fund Drive was the most successful yet! Thank you to all of our donors who collectively contributed over $50,500!

Audio-Reader volunteer and Development Committee member Beverley Wilson commissioned a Van Go, Inc. bench for Audio-Reader. A local youth artist designed and created this one of a kind piece of art inspired by the Sensory Garden. Thank you Bev for this wonderful gift!

McDaniel Knutson generously sponsored our 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, Thank You for your ongoing support!

Audio-Reader was the recipient of a $500 IAAIS Public Awareness Award for our audio description partnership with the Spencer Museum of Art. The award was presented at the 2017 IAAIS Conference.

On behalf of the listeners, volunteers, staff and supporters of Audio-Reader, THANK YOU for your support and belief in our mission!

Save the Date: Our 2018 Golf Classic will be at Eagle Bend Golf Course again on June 4, 2018. All proceeds from the tournament directly support Audio-Reader’s operating expenses. Even if you don’t play golf, you can still help us spread the word to fellow golfers and potential sponsors!

Thank You

Carole Smith has been a long-time friend to Audio-Reader; she’s a devoted volunteer who has helped with reading, events, donating, and serving on the Development Committee. Carole recently stepped down from her position on the Committee, though she will continue as a volunteer reader. Thank you for over 11 years of service on the Audio-Reader Development Committee!
More Memories Made as “For Your EARS Only” Turns 15

Meredith Johanning, Assistant Development Director

Now in its fifteenth year, Audio-Reader’s annual benefit sale, “For Your EARS Only” (FYEO), certainly has created memories over the many years. From its meager beginnings with as-is stereo equipment simply set out on the floor to this year’s expanded sale featuring over 400 pieces of audio equipment, 9,000 vinyl records and over 9,000 CDs, there have been numerous memories made along the way. The sale now has dedicated customers that proclaim they “wait all year for this event” with even one customer declaring it is the “most important event of his year.” In fact, long-time FYEO volunteer Cal Karlin overheard customers at the sale asking each other to recall their favorite FYEO memories.

This year was no exception for making memories. The second highest grossing sale, this year’s event grossed over $34,500 for Audio-Reader! Over 70 volunteers came together and put in a combined 600 hours to ensure this event went off without a hitch. We expanded our space this year to occupy all of Building #21 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds and by the time the doors opened at the start of the sale, over 100 eager customers were lined up outside ready to enter.

This memorable event could not take place without the efforts of our key volunteers, Dave Dunford and Lori Tesdahl. Dave, now in his eleventh year with the sale, personally inspects, repairs and prices all of the audio

**Thank you to our FYEO donors & volunteers!**

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Audio-Reader’s audio description crews have been burning up K-10 and I-70 over the last several months, providing service for more theater performances in Lawrence and Kansas City than ever before! We’ve doubled the number of performances offered from 19 to 38 since we started a concerted effort to promote the program in 2015.

But, audio description requires us to transport our own broadcast system to each venue we serve. Sometimes, we end up with back-to-back performances in two different cities, which makes getting the equipment where it needs to be tricky. Just recently, we described the Thursday evening performance of KU Symphony Orchestra at the Lied Center followed by the Saturday evening performance of Kinky Boots at Starlight, and finished with a Sunday matinee of Catch Me If You Can at Theatre Lawrence. It took a lot of coordination to make sure the equipment got where it needed to be.

Now, thanks to the generous support of the Douglas County Community Foundation and other supporters, we were able to purchase a second set of equipment, allowing us to serve multiple venues at one time. It paid off within days of receiving the equipment order, when flooding prevented one of our describers from returning our first set of equipment in time for it to go out again—but it was no sweat, because we had a second set ready to roll. We were also able to buy a new, stronger antenna that improved signal quality at Starlight, and a steno microphone so we can serve black box theaters or classrooms.

If you’d like to know more about audio description, visit www.reader.ku.edu/audiodescription.
“Frank Male and his crew of volunteers help make our world a more beautiful place! The Audio-Reader Sensory Garden is a pleasure for the senses. We are grateful for all the volunteers do to develop and maintain this peaceful oasis on behalf of Audio-Reader. We encourage everyone to visit the garden and appreciate their good work.” – Dan Skinner, A-R Executive Director

Diana Frederick, former Audio-Reader Development Director, always had a vision of a Sensory Garden at Audio-Reader, and in October 1996 she started the project amidst an unusual October snowstorm. With more than six inches of snow blanketing the ground, she recruited volunteers and donors to start a Sensory Garden. Fortunately the snow melted and the group was able to till the earth and plant the original kidney shaped bed (which later became the raised circular bed that is still there today), with Braille plant markers created by listeners.

Just as volunteers are the heart of Audio-Reader, they are also the heart and soul of the garden. Early volunteers included Lorena Meyers, who also donated the original gazebo, Bob and Donna Lantry, Janis Hutchison, and countless hours of dedicated volunteers, students, family members and friends.

Twenty-one years after that snowy October day, the garden is still maintained by a small group of dedicated volunteers. Frank Male, Sr. is our head garden volunteer. Frank is an amazing philanthropist in his own right; dedicating his retirement years to helping others through his church, his community, and the Sensory Garden. Frank has been honored twice with Douglas County United Way’s prestigious Wallace Galluzzi Outstanding Volunteer Award for his work in the Sensory Garden (2014) and for his work with the Red Cross Blood Drive (2015).

Not only does he physically tend the garden, he also coordinates the other garden volunteers and oversees
volunteer work days with KU students twice a year. He enjoys the surprises that gardening can still bring after all these years stating, “Sometimes it’s a wing and a prayer, but sometimes it turns out really well.” Frank has expanded the variety of plants and herbs, ensuring the garden is a true sensory experience for sight, touch, smell, and sound. He’s also well known for bringing treats and baked goods made from fresh herbs from the garden. Frank is very humble about the beautiful tapestry he’s developed in the garden, offering a slight smile and quiet “thank you” when praised.

Frank has worked tirelessly with a team of dedicated garden volunteers. There have been many outstanding people over the years, and our current crew of regulars includes Craig Sweets, Melissa Wick, Maggie Schutz, and Kris Vakas-McClelland. Hot or cold, rain or shine, you’ll find this committed group tending the garden. “These are great people to work with” Frank said of his fellow garden volunteers. Diana Frederick also praised the volunteers, “I am so incredibly grateful to see this garden so well cared for and blossoming with improvements every year.”

In addition to the variety of plants, herbs, and sensory stimuli, the garden features an award-winning pavilion created by KU’s Dirt Works Studio. The Architect’s Newspaper selected the Sensory Pavilion for the 2016 Best of Design Award for Student Work. Selection criteria included evidence of innovation, creative use of new technology, sustainability, strength of presentation, and, most importantly, great design.

Since the inclusion of the pavilion and new brick pathway last year, Frank and the garden volunteers have re-organized to fill in the new areas, always looking for ways to improve, to incorporate exciting plants and interesting herbs for a unique sensory experience. Frank recently had the honor to tour with an Audio-Reader listener, teaching her how to crush and smell the herbs, and pointing out plants with unique textures. Sharing the garden with listeners, visitors, and garden clubs is part of the reward for these devoted volunteers, and they encourage everyone to stop by and enjoy it.

“The lives of so many volunteers, community members, and staff members are now woven into the landscape of this very special garden - as well as the many individuals who enjoy the garden's magic year after year.” – Diana Frederick

Work hard, play hard – this crew knows how to have a good time!

Maggie, Frank, Melissa, Craig, and Kris hard at work to make the garden beautiful.
Audio-Reader Volunteers Recognized for Service

Jen Nigro, Coordinator of Volunteers

Audio-Reader held its Broadcasters Brunch, an annual appreciation event to recognize and thank the organization’s volunteers. This year, we had the opportunity to meet Reggie Robinson, the interim vice chancellor for public affairs at KU. We also heard from Audio-Reader listener Travis Smith, who lost his vision in a hunting accident and utilizes Audio-Reader services to access publications related to cars, hunting, news and other information. The event culminated with the recognition of 41 volunteers for their years of service to KU. Congratulations to our honorees, and thank you to all of you who support Audio-Reader’s important work in the community!

5 Year
Front Row: Kay Traver, Lorie Williams, Carol Rubsam, and Bill Padgett
Back Row: Bob Shadburn, Jessica Mayhew, and Mary Conn

10 Year
Front Row: Donna Decedue, Karen Wuenstel, and Judi Gitel
Back Row: Susan Stone, Charles Decedue, Mike Krings, and Michael Rapport
Not Pictured: Mike Doudoroff, Kurt Falkenstien, Betty Kline, Linda Manley, Dave Schaaf, Carla Tilghman, and Kimi Worstell-Laabs

15 Year
Lynn Segebrecht, Bill Beningfield, and Bill Zimmerman
Not Pictured: Martha Baxter, Hannes Combest, and Barbara Schountz

20 Year
Carl Graves and Jill LaPoint
Not Pictured: Tim Nauman, John Trinkl, and Ray Wilbur

25 Year
Marilyn Bradt
Thank you to all donors whose contributions have supported the work and mission of Audio-Reader! Please note that Audio-Reader publishes two separate donor lists each year.

This list reflects only those donations received between April 1 – September 30, 2017.

UNDERWRITERS
Douglas County Community Foundation
Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation
Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Center
Fry Eye Associates, P.A.
Hallmark Cards, Inc.
Kansas City Society of Ophthalmology
Kansas Lions Sight Foundation
Kansas Optometric Association
Kansas Public Radio
KCUR Public Media
Kresie & Penzler, M.D.’s, P.A. Ophthalmology
Lawrence Memorial Hospital
Lied Center of Kansas
McDaniel-Knutson Financial Partners
Overland Park Host Lions Club
Retina Associates, P.A.
Starlight Theatre
Sedalia Lions Club

BROADCASTERS ($500+)
Central United Methodist Church
Chuck & Erma Fisher
Janis Hutchison
Kansas Commercial Real Estate Services, Inc.
KBS Constructors, Inc.
Lawrence Tae Kwon Do School, LLC
Cindy & Craig Penzler
Restoration & Waterproofing Contractors, Inc.
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MDVIP, Inc. Doctors Dillon, Kennedy, & Hueter
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Molly Mulloy
Anthony & Karen Mynsted
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Ronald & Jean Ramberg
Robinson Lions Club
Suzanne Sherr
Jane Tedder
Karen Traver
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Dale Walker & John Colombo
Don & Elaine Webb
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DIRECTOR’S CLUB ($300+)
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Girard Lions Club
Greenwave Electric, Inc.
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Mar Lan Construction
Max & Nelda Mayse
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Diane Sadowski
Mary Lee Warner

PRODUCERS ($150+)
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Delta Upsilon Fraternity KS Chapter
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Groovewasher LLC
Robert & Lois Hanzlik
Larry & Ruthie Hatfield
Howard Hildenbrand
Norma Horn
Judy Brynds Group
Mike & Elaine Kautsch

SPONSORS ($50+)
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D.W. Bell
Brenda Berg-Dyck & Randal Dyck
Terry & Steve Betzen
Dean Bevan
Carl Blomgren
Kevin & Deborah Boatright
Paul & Shirley Boatwright
Bob Bowerman
Mary Boyce
Julie & Brad Boydston
Marilyn Bradt
Darrell Brock
Wilma Brockschmidt
Rex Buchanan
Bob Campbell
Patricia Campbell
William & Barbara Carswell
Peter & Pam Casagrande
John Catlin
Central National Bank
Craig & Sara Chappell
Robert & Joanne Coffeen
Colby Lions Club

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William Dann
Tom Doyle*
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David Holmes
Carol & Charles Jones
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Barry Lee
Lions Clubs of Lawrence Foundation
Missouri Lions District 26-M4
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Tom Parks
David Pierson
Kathy Sanders
Belinda Schuman
Topeka Lions Foundation
Beverley & George Wilson
ABC Foundation

PRODUCERS ($50+)
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Bob Dey
Jerry & Ileen Donnelly
Kaye Drahozal
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Diana & Joel Frederick
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Roxann Holland
Jim & Meg Huber
Elizabeth Hunter
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Becky Janzen
Jewish Community Women
Judith Sharp
Faye Jones
Sue Kahle
Kanwaka FCE
Calvin & Jan Karlin
Shirley Kasper
LC Keating
John Towner
Sharon & Leland Kenagy
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Mary Kline
KU Endowment
Thomas Lang
Lori & Mark Lange
Lawrence Delta Zeta Alumnae
Gary & Celeste Leonardi
Kurt Look & Melissa Moore
Amanda Loughlin
Louisburg Lions Club
Jerry & Janet Magnuson
Helen Martin
Robert Maynard
Lewis Mills
Cathy Callen Molineux
Alan & Lila Morris
Linda Neal
Earl Nehring
Bruce & Larisa Nightingale
Jean North
Pittsburg Lions Club
Dorothy Prager
Mary Ann Rastorfer
Ron & Roberta Renz
Mark & Kathy Robbins
Bruce & Harlanne Roberts
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Phillip Roush
David & Janet Schaaf
Darcy Shicl
Scotch Industries, Inc.
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Warren Shaffer
Julie Trowbridge-Alford
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Matt Suggs & Feloniz Lovato-Winston
Craig Sweets
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The Concordia Lions Club
Turntine Ocular Prosthetics, Inc.
William & Edna Van Schmus
Ventura Club
Amy Waddle
Rick & Lisa Werner
Rev. Loren Werth
Mike & Maggie Wood
James Woods
Mary Ackerly
Atchison Lions Club
Mary Ann Baker
Russell Benus
Jered Biesemeyer
Margaret Bishop
Patrick Bishop
Sonja Brand
Patricia Brennecka
Mary Brinton
Kristi Burmeister
Nick Carswell
Deborah Carter
George & Sherry Catt
Kimberly Charles
William Courtway
Clark Cropp
Dennis & Judy Dailey
Laura Dale
Rachel DaPron
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Susan Elkins
Nancy Espino
Jennifer Clifton Ferguson
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Evelyn Hanauer
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Schwan’s Cares
Tamara Seyler-James
Linda Sher
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Jeannine Smith
Catherine P. Smyth
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Henry Staub, III
Dana Strueby
Trinity Episcopal Church
Linda Verstraete
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Mary Waite
Alta Walter
Kristen Watson
Carol Beth Whalen
Janice White
Ray & Marian Wilbur
Mollie Wilner
Wendell & Louise Winkler
Mary Louise Wright
Deb Yager

PETEY CERF LEGACY SOCIETY

*denotes deceased
Mae S. Allen*
Anonymous*(x3)
Anonymous (x6)
Anna Ballard “Pete” Cerf*
Randolph G. Austin
Janet and Richard Campbell
Sarah J. Cohen*
William A. Dann
Frank and Edna Day
Thomas P. Doyle*
Marjorie Elliott*
Glady’s Fredrick Burge*
Diana Seely Frederick
Lela Freiemnuth*
Sara W. Gee*
Carl Graves
Phyllis J. Henney*
Margaret E. Herynk*
Jake Irvine*
J. Archie King*
Elise Mae Lathey*
Wilma R. Miller*
Elwin J. Reynolds*
Elaine N. Roberts
Richard J. Schoeck*
Mildred O. Swendson*
Jane A. Tedder
Ralph Turner*
William R.* & Jean Van Lew
Jerry Vogel*
Mildred L. Wittick*
Lee Young

BRICKS FOR THE SENSORY GARDEN

In Loving Memory of
Piper Crain
Diana Frederick

Marilyn J. Kearney
Bibliophile
Tom and Melinda Kearney

Dottie
My Lieveling
From Piet
Piet Knetsch

In Memory of
Gina Krause
Kayde Drahoszal

FRIENDS (up to $50)

Mary Ackerly
Atchison Lions Club
Mary Ann Baker
Russell Benus
Jerred Biesemeyer
Margaret Bishop
Patrick Bishop
Sonja Brand
Patricia Brennecka
Mary Brinton
Kristi Burmeister
Nick Carswell
Deborah Carter
George & Sherry Catt
Kimberly Charles
William Courtway
Clark Cropp
Dennis & Judy Dailey
Laura Dale

MEMORIALS

Herman Cox Memorial
Sue Kahle
Jim & Pat O’Hagan
Belinda Schuman
Greg Staton
Margie Wilson, Dennis, David & Family

John Nixon Memorial
Mary Brinton
Clark and Linda Cropp
David Kent
Robert H. Maynard
Elizabeth MacGowan Lavery
Jen and Dave Ngo
Bill J. Ohlemeier
Bruce and Harlanne Roberts
Kathy Sanders
Eleanor Symons
Thelma and Jim Taylor
Julie Trowbridge-Alford and Arthur Shaw

Charlyen Orel Memorial
Peter and Pamela
Casagrande
Phyllis and Richard Sapp
William and Edna Van Schmus

Joanne Wise Memorial Bench
Margaret D. and Peter V. Bieri
Jerree and Harley Catlin
Ileen and Jerry Donnelly
Connie and Dale Friesen
Katharine and Captain Gray
Sheila and John Immel
Sheryl and Robert Jacobs
Judith and Nelson Krueger
Linda and John Lungstrum
Marcia and Ron Oelschlager
Margaret Ann Schwartzburg
Jeanette and Richard Shultz
Deaneil and John Tacha

DONATIONS in MEMORY of

Anne Ballard “Pete” Cerf
ABC Foundation
Margaret M Barmann
Kathryn and Mark Robbins

Dean Bishop
Margaret Bishop

Maude Brown
Judith A. Christy

Emily Faye Catt
George and Sherry Catt
Gary Beasley has been a member of the Lawrence Noon Lions Club for nearly 40 years, holding several leadership positions throughout those years. With service to sight being one of the Lions organization’s main goals, Gary’s passion was already closely aligned with Audio-Reader’s mission. “Audio-Reader and the Lions are so much a part of me,” Gary fondly told us. His support for Audio-Reader started by helping purchase closed-circuit radios for listeners each year so that they could get the news and information they needed. His commitment only grew from there. “The longer I go, the more passion I have for Audio-Reader,” Gary affectionately stated.

Knowing that his support has a direct impact on the listener is also what inspires Gary to continue giving. “You get involved and you see all the benefits Audio-Reader has for the listener. It is one of the best organizations in what they do that I know of anywhere,” he shared. “I encourage everyone to get behind it and to increase your giving over the years, just like I have. It is the greatest organization in my heart.”
Together, we strive to provide **Access.**
**Empowerment.**
**Self-Sufficiency.**

Audio-Reader is a 501(c)(3) organization, and our services are available free of charge. Your donations help to provide closed-circuit radios for new listeners, purchase newspaper and magazine subscriptions, current books, other printed materials, and to upgrade and maintain the technology that brings the printed word to life. We thank you for your tax-deductible contribution.

### Donation Levels
- **Up to $49.99** Friend of Audio-Reader
- **$50 to $149.99** Sponsor
- **$150 to $299.99** Producer
- **$300 to $499.99** Directors Club
- **$500-$999.99** Broadcaster
- **$1000 and over** Benefactor

### Instructions
- **Mail to:**
  Audio-Reader
  1120 W 11TH St
  Lawrence, KS 66044
- **Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:**
  $______________________________

  Make checks payable to AUDIO-READER NETWORK.

- **Name** _______________________________________________________________
- **Address** ______________________________________________________________
- **City** __________________________ **State** ______ **Zip** ____________________
- **E-mail** ______________________________________________________________

- **☐** The enclosed donation is a tribute in honor of or memory of (circle one).
- **☐** I would like information on remembering Audio-Reader in my will or other planned giving.
- **☐** I have already designated Audio-Reader in my will (Petey Cerf Legacy Society member).
- **☐** I would like information about donating a brick for the Audio-Reader Sensory Garden.
- **☐** I am interested in having a program about Audio-Reader at my club/church/organization.

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