
**Who ARE these people in the
Braille Transcription Project?**

- We are some sixty volunteers:

*Transcribers
Library Workers
Office Workers
Braille Teachers
Computer Operators*

- We are non-profit, incorporated, and publicly funded.
 - We are headquartered in San Jose, with a branch facility in Los Altos
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What do these people DO?

- We provide Braille textbooks:
Free to students in Santa Clara County,
cost-only reimbursement to others.
 - We operate a 10,000-volume Braille library available to all blind persons.
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**How long has the Braille Transcription
Project been in operation?**

- Since 1956!
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“I was born blind.”



*“Now I’m trained in court
reporting, thanks in large*

*part to the **Braille
Transcription***

Project

*Of Santa Clara
County, Inc.”*

*Dianne Hamms and her guide dog, Johnson
(Photo by Felicia Pollock)*

An appeal for contributions

The Braille Transcription Project was initiated in 1956 by Dr. O.S. Hubbard, Superintendent of the Santa Clara County School Department, in answer to the need to assist in the education of 18 blind children. Dr. Hubbard proposed to the district Parent Teacher Association that they spearhead the effort, and thus the Project was founded in conjunction with the district PTA.

Until 1989, almost the entire budget was dependent on monies received from the district PTA, but those funds have diminished to donations from individual school PTAs, as their funds permit.

Thus the Project increasingly depends on corporate and individual contributions for its \$20,000 to \$30,000 annual budget. Almost 60% of the total budget goes for braille supplies alone, with utilities, proofreading, and insurance taking another 31%.

Contributions are tax deductible

(IRS tax-deductible #77-0283603). And remember: at the Braille Transcription Project, there are *no* salaries and *no* expense accounts. *All* the money contributed goes to the production of Braille material.

Checks should be made payable to

“Braille Transcription Project”
and mailed to

101 North Bascom Ave.
San Jose, CA 95128

Our Braille readers thank you.

An appeal for volunteers

The numerous tasks we perform to produce Braille for the blind are done entirely by volunteers. Some of us spend as little as a morning or afternoon a week at the Project; others contribute many more hours. Our volunteers come from all walks of life: retired office workers to executives; housewives to students; night-shift workers to recently widowed men and women.

Some volunteers operate machines at the Project offices, do filing work, assemble Braille volumes. Would you like to operate a computer? Produce brailled pages on a machine? Assemble the finished product? Work in the Project library? The satisfaction one receives from just a few hours a week can be a fulfilling endeavor.

Other volunteers (transcribers) learn Braille, then work primarily at home. Transcribing a textbook into Braille can be a significant task, particularly if it is of a technical nature. For instance, the 747-page textbook, *American Government*, is 2,331 pages in Braille! *Roget's Thesaurus* is even larger. Both these titles and many others—including mathematics and foreign languages—have been transcribed by the Project.

Another of our needs is Braille machine repair. Although this work is typically done by male volunteers, we would welcome females who are mechanically and computer-technology minded.

Braille consists of a pattern of six raised dots, called a cell. In addition to the alphabet and numbers, there are about 200 contractions and short-form words that reduce the size of the volume and simplify the reading.

This is the Braille alphabet:

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
.	:	:"	:;	:.	:'	:#	:\$:%	:&
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
:.	::	:;	:>	:<	:&	:#	:\$:%	:&
u	v	w	x	y	z				
:.	::	:;	:>	:<	:&				

A transcriber training course is given each year at the Project. It is a weekly, two- and- one-half-hour class, starting in September and ending in June. It prepares the student to be conversant with the Braille language and to transcribe literary Braille

If you are interested in joining our volunteer group, or have questions, please contact us at (408) 298-4468.

Braille Transcription Project Officer

Main Office:

101 North Bascom Avenue
San Jose, CA 95128
Telephone: (408) 298-4468

North Branch Office:

Post Office Box 326
Los Altos, CA 94022
Telephone: (650) 948-0139

We welcome visitors/tours of our facilities by interested parties. Call us and let us arrange a meeting for you to see the Braille Transcription Project in operation.