

# Thrive

## Commemorating Hadley's Centennial



**FREE COLLEGE FOR BLIND OPENS ON NORTH SHORE**  
 Correspondence School Founded by William A. Hadley Wins North Shore Backing.

A free correspondence school to provide the blind with the equivalent of a university education has been started in Winnetka, it was learned yesterday. It is financed by prominent north shore citizens.

The idea is credited to William A. Hadley, who became blind six years ago following an attack of influenza while he was teaching at the Lake View High School. For six months he has been carrying on the project with his own limited finances, and has sixty pupils in all parts of the world, two of them in China.

The Braille system of raised lettering is used, and lessons are sent to any person who lacks funds to pay tuition at schools for the blind.

**School Strongly Supported.**  
 The scope of the school, known as the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, with headquarters in Prof. Hadley's home at 1913 Oak st., Winnetka, will be broadened as soon as the committee of interested North Shore residents have raised a fund. Among those who are supporting the school are John W. Scott, Mrs. Ernest D. Bal-Brown, Douglas Smith and Har-

Courses are offered in literature, short story writing and appreciation, history, psychology, civics, Biblical history, typewriting, business English, business correspondence, and salesmanship. Instruction is also given in reading and writing revised Braille. The short story course will be given by Mrs. Lydia J. Tyobridge of the Lake View High School, and psychology by P. P. Kohlsaat, dean of Lewis Institute.

**War Risk Bureau Helps.**  
 The War Risk Bureau has announced its intention of adopting Prof. Hadley's plan for war veterans who have lost their sight.

Prof. Hadley was graduated from Earlham College in 1887 and was for a time at the University of Minnesota. He studied two years at the University of Berlin, and subsequently was head of the Latin department of Marietta College. His present pupils learned of the school through publications for the blind.



Special Issue: 2019 Annual Report

**HADLEY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**  
**AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**  
**WA9WHS**  
 700 ELM ST. WINNETKA, ILL. U.S.A. 60093  
 A SUBURB OF CHICAGO

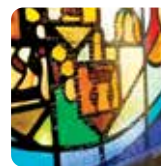
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## The Founding of the Hadley Correspondence School 4

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### 8 Special Connection for Hadley Woman's Board Volunteer

### 9 Encouragement and Community at Hadley

## 10 2019 Annual Report

**ON THE COVER:** (Photos, clockwise from top left) The Hadley Woman's Board gathers for the annual benefit; Jessie and William A. Hadley; local press announces opening of The Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, 1921; the U.S. Postal Service picks up daily correspondence to Hadley students, 1936; Hadley building under construction, 1957; Woman's Board President Jeanne Denison welcomes First Lady Barbara Bush for Hadley's 75th anniversary, 1995; Renovating Hadley's headquarters, 2019; Ribbon cutting for the remodeled building, 2019; Hadley President Richard Kinney and instructor Geraldine Lawhorn, both deaf-blind, communicate by Tellatouch, 1970s; Entrance to Hadley's newly remodeled building, 2020; Hadley students around the world communicated through the Hadley Amateur (HAM) Radio Society, 1960s; Parents and children test devices that mimic visual impairment during Winnetka's "TV Tuneout" event, 2000.

## Create Your Legacy...

**By including Hadley in your estate planning, you will help to ensure that future generations can learn braille, develop employment skills, learn safety practices, and explore smartphone accessibility features.** Please consider designating Hadley as a beneficiary of an IRA or insurance policy, or including Hadley in your will or trust.

- Suggested wording to share with your attorney: I give \_\_\_% or \$\_\_\_ to Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired, an Illinois non-profit corporation located at 700 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL 60093, EIN #36-2183809.
- If you have previously included Hadley in your will or trust using our former name, "The Hadley School for the Blind," there is no need to change your documents.

You can assist us in encouraging others to do the same by letting us know of your decision. We look forward to thanking you and welcoming you to the Clarence Boyd Jones Society!

**Please contact Brooke Voss at 847.784.2774 or [Brooke@hadley.edu](mailto:Brooke@hadley.edu).**







## A letter from Julie Tye and Scott Dickes...

It was 100 years ago that William Hadley began providing learning to adults, like himself, who lost their vision later in life.

For much of the 20th century, “braille by mail” was the primary means for teaching at Hadley. Today this remains the best approach for some Hadley learners—and we will continue to deliver these critical resources to them.

As the world and technology have evolved, so has Hadley. We remain strong because we have continuously innovated and adapted to ensure we are providing the greatest assistance to those who need our services. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this learning has always been free to our blind and visually

impaired learners and their families.

While medical advances over the past 100 years have led to lower rates of blindness at birth and in childhood, vision loss at the other end of the age spectrum is dramatically increasing. It is estimated that there will be more than five million older adults with low or no vision by 2030 because of age-related eye diseases such as macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. There is an urgent need to support these millions of individuals new to vision loss, and Hadley recognizes our duty to do so.

We are continuing to create the foundation for the future by transforming our courses into shorter, more digestible modules and rebuilding our technology infrastructure to make it more accessible to learners. This new platform is launching soon, and we are excited that it will make it easier for people with vision loss to learn through Hadley. It will increase our capacity so we can help many more.

It will also enable our learners to connect more easily with one another, something they have told us is important to them. Isolation can be a serious and dangerous consequence of impaired sight. While Hadley learners have always been able to reach out to us, this new platform and our popular discussion group forums allow them to be part of a community where they can share experiences, information and interests.

2020 is a big year for Hadley. We are standing at a unique point in time—celebrating the organization’s rich history, while also developing new infrastructure to equip us for the next century. We are so grateful for your financial support that helps us to empower people who are blind and visually impaired to thrive at home, at work and in their communities, today and into the future.

Sincerely,

Julie S. Tye  
President

Scott B. Dickes  
Chair, Board  
of Trustees

**our mission** Hadley creates personalized learning opportunities that empower adults with vision loss or blindness to thrive—  
at home, at work and in their communities.

## Commemorating Hadley's Centennial

Hadley turns 100 in 2020. Throughout the year, we will share some highlights of our history. Let's start at the beginning.

# The Founding of The Hadley Correspondence School



William Hadley

William Hadley was born in 1860 in Mooresville, IN. After graduating from Earlham College in 1881 and earning his master's degree at the University of Minnesota, he began his teaching career. This took him to Willmar, MN, Marietta College in Ohio, the Peoria, IL Public Schools and, finally, to Lake View High School in Chicago. In search of more space for his family, Hadley moved with his wife, Jessie, and their two daughters to Winnetka, IL, a town north of Chicago, in 1905.

"When your life's ambition has failed you, pick up a new thread of endeavor...make your renewal of effort count for other people...because when you think of the other fellow only and not yourself, your own problem fades into insignificance; in unselfishness lies the real thrill of being alive." —William A. Hadley

In 1915, a bout of influenza caused Hadley's retina to detach. This could probably be fixed surgically today but, at that time, it led to a loss of vision in this eye. Because he had lost sight in his other eye in a childhood archery accident, Hadley was completely blind at the age of 55.

This was not an easy adjustment, but Hadley found great assistance from his friend and neighbor, Dr. E.V.L. Brown, a renowned ophthalmologist. Brown recognized the importance of vision rehabilitation for recovering self-esteem and encouraged Hadley to stay active and learn braille.

When Hadley set out to do so, he was frustrated to find that there were virtually no educational opportunities for

blind adults. Motivated by his love of reading and learning, he taught himself braille.

Hadley learned to accept his vision loss but lacked a strong sense of purpose. A conversation with a friend spurred the idea that he could use his talents and experiences to teach his fellow adult blind by correspondence courses. Invigorated by the challenge, Hadley got to work making it a reality and enlisted Dr. Brown to help in this endeavor.

Hadley's first student was a farmer's wife in Kansas who was desperate to learn braille so

**YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE  
FOR HADLEY LEARNERS TO  
THRIVE AT HOME, AT  
WORK AND IN THEIR  
COMMUNITIES.**





Dr. and Mrs. E.V.L. Brown



Jessie and William Hadley



913 Oak Street in Winnetka

she could read again. He wrote and mailed lessons to her, along with notes of correction and encouragement. This was the beginning of “braille by mail.”

Following this success, Mr. Hadley was ready to take on more students. An advertisement in a braille periodical resulted in over 100 replies—from all 48 states, Canada and China. This reinforced the significant need for the teaching services he was offering and provided direction for the type of courses that should be offered. In response, the curriculum was expanded. Mr. Hadley authored, brailled and taught the courses himself.

For the first year, Hadley ran the school out of his living room at 913 Oak Street in Winnetka, IL—with the help of his wife Jessie, and the support and encouragement of Dr. Brown. Using only the modest means of his teaching pension, Hadley provided education to more than 60 students free of charge.

This policy of tuition-free education that Mr. Hadley established a century ago continues to underpin Hadley learning today.

The Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind was officially incorporated in 1922. While William Hadley taught the courses and corresponded with students, Dr. Brown provided essential and inspiring leadership, serving as the first President of the Hadley Board of Trustees from 1922 until his death in 1953.

Brown was an impressive individual. An accomplished ophthalmologist, he received many honors throughout his career, including the highest honor in his field, the Howe Medal of the American Ophthalmological Society. He was also a dedicated educator who taught at Rush Medical College, the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois, as well as a great humanitarian who is credited for leading a movement to

save infants from blindness by requiring antisepsis of the eyes at birth. His impact at the school was immense. Under his guidance, Hadley flourished, providing tuition-free learning to students across the country and around the world.

As the school grew and more staff was brought on board, William Hadley continued to tirelessly develop courses and teach students. However, he ultimately scaled back his teaching at the age of 76 when he underwent an operation that took much of his vigor.

The year before his death in 1941, Hadley reflected upon his life in an interview with the Chicago Tribune, remarking, “I had been a teacher all my life and my work was not done. I was idle several years, adjusting myself, but eventually I decided that my ability to teach had not left with my sight. Now I know that my most valuable work has been done in the last 20 years. I am not sorry that I was made blind.” ■





Rabbi Lenny Sarko

## *Translating the Torah into Braille*

Rabbi Lenny Sarko lost most of the vision in his right eye and some in his left to Type II Diabetes when he was in his 50s. With his eyesight drastically deteriorating, he set out to learn braille so that he could continue reading should he ever further lose his vision.

For Rabbi Lenny, Hadley's distance learning approach was the perfect way to study braille because he could fit it in around his unpredictable work schedule and busy life. "I am very grateful. Without Hadley, I'm not sure I could have done it," he remarks. A dedicated learner, he quickly completed Braille 1, 2, 3 and 4, and is now working on contracted braille, which includes combined words and abbreviations, similar to the way we use contractions in English. In addition, he found

support through Hadley's online discussion groups that helped him build confidence to manage situations and navigate the world with low vision.

While Rabbi Lenny's vision will never improve, it has stabilized. He is expected to retain some sight, giving him "a foot in both the sighted and non-sighted worlds," as he describes it.

Living with low vision has raised his awareness of the inequities that people with visual impairments face. This

includes an important one for visually impaired Jewish people around the world, the ability to read the Sefer Torah—a handwritten scroll that is used in religious services.

Reading from this scroll is an honor shared by the congregation, with a different member selected to read each week. There are a total of 54 sections and Jewish congregations around the world are united by reading the same passage during weekly services.

“Hadley is very critical to me. It has really supported me and my learning. I couldn’t have gone on this path without it.” —*Rabbi Lenny Sarko*

However, because Jewish tradition specifies that the reading must be read directly from the scroll (not memorized) and the Torah has not been available in braille, many with visual impairments have not been able to participate in this rite.

There are several reasons why the Torah has not been written in braille. First, religious rules specify that the scroll itself must be written by hand on organic materials, not produced by machine. It must also be error-free, so if the scribe makes a mistake they must start again, making for an extremely time-intensive endeavor in any medium—especially so in braille.

In his quest to put blind and visually impaired congregants on equal footing with others, Rabbi Lenny set out to understand and overcome these hurdles. He spent a year researching the

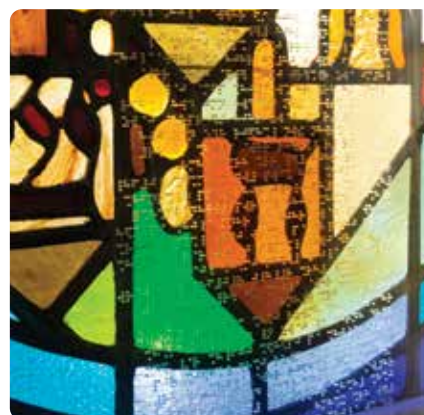
possibilities and developed a method to write the Torah in braille that adheres to religious laws and traditions.

Launched as the Braille Torah Project, he is now putting his plan into action. This approach uses the slate and stylus, which enables the lettering to be done correctly and efficiently, yet still manually. The top slate is predrilled in keeping with the Sefer Torah format, 42 lines long by 40 characters across, so the dots can be pushed in by hand. These slate panels are then lined up in columns to create one continuous document on Kosher calf parchment. Creating the 54 sections will require producing a total of 265 different slates. While the first scroll takes a long time to set up, once the slates are prepared he anticipates he can produce one scroll per month.

In order to make sure every congregation in the U.S. has

access to the braille scrolls, Rabbi Lenny is also setting up a library system so the Torah segments can be reserved and sent to the congregations as they are needed. He estimates that the Braille Torah Project will need to produce 200 scrolls to meet the needs of U.S. congregations requesting them for a specific Shabbat (Sabbath) and is building an endowment to cover costs such as shipping and insurance.

Rabbi Lenny explains that the Braille Torah Project will “empower visually impaired people to become more active in the congregation, to fully participate in religious ceremonies and be involved.” Hadley is proud of the supporting role it has played in Rabbi Lenny’s life to help him towards this goal. ■





Ashley Eckman

## Special Connection for Hadley Woman's Board Volunteer

**A** long road led Ashley Eckman to her position on the Hadley Woman's Board, but she believes she is here for a reason. Moving to Illinois from New Jersey in 2013 with husband Brian and sons Will and Sam, Ashley had an unforgettable experience while searching for a new home.

The story actually begins on March 11, 2002, when she gave birth to her first son, Eli. Born with osteopetrosis, a rare metabolic disease, the Eckmans would learn three months later that Eli was also blind.

As a new mom, Ashley wanted to do everything she could to help guide him through the early stages of life. "We were looking for resources," she recalls. "I didn't know a single

person who was blind. I knew our world was a visual one and wanted to help my child learn. That's when we first found Hadley. We took a course called 'Reach Out and Teach' that came in an envelope through the mail.

"Hadley was so hopeful, so sweet, and the support was free. They let us know we were not alone; that they've done this before; that they have the answers for what we need; and that we're in this together."

Eli received a bone marrow transplant during the first year

"Hadley was so hopeful, so sweet, and the support was free. They let us know we were not alone; that they've done this before; that they have the answers for what we need; and that we're in this together." —Ashley Eckman

of his life and would survive for six more years before passing away at the age of seven.

Fast forward to 2013, when the Eckman family moved to the Chicago area for Brian's new job. While house hunting Ashley remembers driving down Elm Street in Winnetka and right past Hadley.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Then I saw the braille on the Hadley sign, and it was clear that this was Eli's way of saying hello and that hey, everything is going to work out."

The Eckmans bought a home in a neighboring town and, soon after, one of her son's friends would come over to play. Ashley showed him one of Eli's braille books they had kept. "The boy's mom said she had a friend who was on the Hadley Woman's Board and that I might like to meet her," recalls Ashley.

She would soon have coffee with Sarah Barden, a Woman's Board member and Hadley trustee. The two made an instant connection.

"For some reason I kept the 'Reach Out and Teach' materials," she laughs. "I



didn't know that I'd be on the Woman's Board, but it seems quite serendipitous."

Ashley has served as secretary for the last three years and is involved in several Woman's Board fundraisers each year, including the yearly sale of Hadley's holiday cards. In fact, she proudly displays the first Hadley holiday card her family sent to family and friends when Eli was two years old, back in 2004. The front features a picture of her, Brian and Eli with a Happy Holidays message printed in braille on the inside.

"We sent this holiday card 15 years ago and today we still send braille holiday cards from Hadley. It's amazing to know that I'm now so closely associated with such a great organization.

"Knowing that Hadley's offices are close by has helped. I'm always looking for hellos from Eli and being able to be involved with Hadley is just another nod from him."

She continues: "But I don't want my story to be about how we lost a child. We remember Eli through pictures, stories, and memories. He lives in our hearts forever. I just want to help other families who have loved ones with vision loss because through Hadley, I was given encouragement and hope and wish to share that same message." ■

## Susan Bourrie Finds Encouragement and Community at Hadley

Susan Bourrie's congenital glaucoma went undiagnosed until the age of 22, when she lost central vision in one eye and peripheral vision in both.

Because she was not legally blind, Susan didn't qualify for rehab services. However, the rehab counselor for a blind college student she was teaching directed her to useful resources, which helped her earn two master's degrees and complete course work towards a Ph.D.

In 2001, Susan was diagnosed with inoperable cataracts and recognized to be legally blind. While she now qualified for services, local agencies didn't offer the training she needed and recommended Hadley.

Hadley's resources were immediately accessible and relevant to her life, including courses on Going Places, Independent Living, Self-Esteem, and job-related learning.

Now 72 years old, Susan lives in Ann Arbor, MI. She is a self-published author who has worked as a teacher, librarian and university lecturer. Susan explains, "I've had to be flexible as vision problems and discrimination took me through dead ends and detours."

Hadley has helped Susan conquer many challenges. "While I sometimes feel like I am climbing a mountain, others have gotten to the top. Every time I am on a plateau, I look for a Hadley course or group to help get moving again."

Susan enjoys Hadley's Writers' Circle, which she credits for giving her the confidence to keep writing. She also values this interaction because, "Isolation is such a problem. Sharing experiences with others who share interests and medical challenges is so positive and motivating."

Susan says Hadley "has helped me be determined and not a quitter. It has reminded me to have fun and live a balanced life." And, she is an advocate for the work Hadley does to "help a population that has a 70% unemployment rate overcome the obstacles," recognizing, "Hadley is reaching people who would not be reached otherwise."



Susan Bourrie

## Statement of Financial Position

Years Ended June 30, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,103,877	\$1,305,430
Investments	\$89,444,051	\$88,559,029
Tuition receivable	\$9,950	-
Property and equipment, net	\$920,842	\$848,232
Construction in progress	\$8,508,058	\$1,107,539
	<u>\$99,986,778</u>	<u>\$91,820,230</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Line of credit	\$5,874,001	-
Construction payable	\$1,399,553	\$285,203
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$642,939	\$631,531
Gift annuities payable	\$19,109	\$21,157
	<u>\$7,935,602</u>	<u>\$937,891</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	\$85,281,421	\$83,110,908
With donor restrictions	\$6,769,755	\$7,771,431
	<u>\$92,051,176</u>	<u>\$90,882,339</u>
	<u>\$99,986,778</u>	<u>\$91,820,230</u>

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*“There was a time I thought I would never accomplish my goals. Hadley provided opportunities for me to dream.”* —Natalia Martinez, Hadley learner

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# Statement of Financial Activity

Year Ended June 30, 2019	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Revenue and Public Support</b>			
Contributions	\$3,871,999	\$350,328	\$4,222,327
Release of net assets from restriction arising from satisfaction of program restrictions	1,599,512	(1,599,512)	-
Investment income (net of management fees)	1,710,751	368,956	2,079,707
Net realized gains on sales of investments	2,411,886	-	2,411,886
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments	692,288	(121,448)	570,840
Tuition	81,120	-	81,120
Other	6,578	-	6,578
	<u>10,374,134</u>	<u>(1,001,676)</u>	<u>9,372,458</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Educational programs and public awareness	6,162,680	-	6,162,680
Fundraising	895,341	-	895,341
General and administrative	1,145,600	-	1,145,600
	<u>8,203,621</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,203,621</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	2,170,513	(1,001,676)	1,168,837
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Beginning of year	83,110,908	7,771,431	90,882,339
End of year	<u>\$85,281,421</u>	<u>\$6,769,755</u>	<u>\$92,051,176</u>

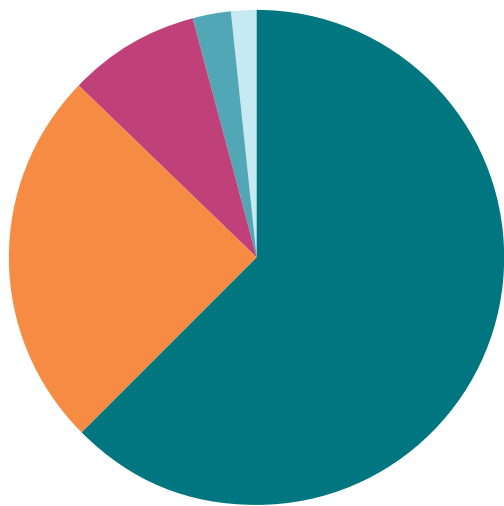
  

Year Ended June 30, 2018	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Revenue and Public Support</b>			
Contributions	\$3,760,044	232,553	\$3,992,597
Release of net assets from restriction arising from satisfaction of program restrictions	640,125	(640,125)	-
Investment income (net of management fees)	1,595,833	260,893	1,856,726
Net realized gains on sales of investments	1,527,342	-	1,527,342
Net change in unrealized gain/loss on investments	4,187,832	(166,391)	4,021,441
Tuition	108,024	-	108,024
Other	8,216	-	8,216
	<u>11,827,416</u>	<u>(313,070)</u>	<u>11,514,346</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Educational programs and public awareness	5,770,350	-	5,770,350
Fundraising	661,589	-	661,589
General and administrative	1,080,843	-	1,080,843
	<u>7,512,782</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,512,782</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	4,314,634	(313,070)	4,001,564
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Beginning of year	78,796,274	8,084,501	86,880,775
End of year	<u>\$83,110,908</u>	<u>\$7,771,431</u>	<u>\$90,882,339</u>



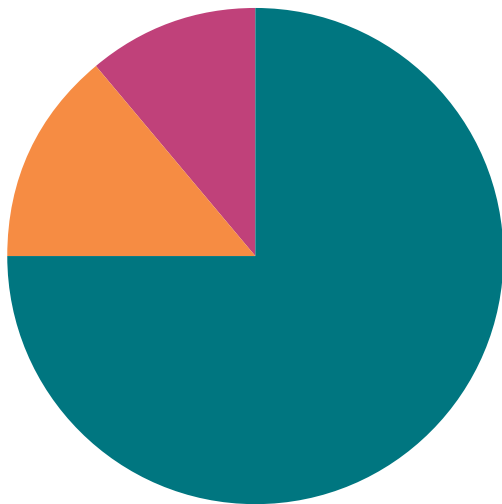
# 100% of donations directly support education and services

As a result of generous donors and prudent financial investments, Hadley's endowment covers all administrative and fundraising expenses.



Sources of Contributions to Operating Funds

- 62.6% ■ INDIVIDUAL — \$1,055,428
- 24.8% ■ FOUNDATION — \$418,439
- 8.6% ■ WOMAN'S BOARD — \$145,100
- 2.5% ■ CORPORATE — \$42,299
- 1.4% ■ SERVICE CLUBS — \$23,528



Utilization of Operating Funds

- 75.1% ■ EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS — \$6,162,680
- 14% ■ GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE — \$1,145,600
- 10.9% ■ FUNDRAISING — \$895,341

\$1,684,794  
Contributions in FY2019

\$1,721,411  
Bequests in FY2019

\$5,509,418  
Woman's Board cumulative giving since 1953

# 2019 at a Glance...



5,911 *New course enrollments*

*Instructional videos viewed* 161,641

2,976 *Discussion group participants*

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*"I'm no longer letting my sight problem get in the way of things I want to do." —Dana Brech, Hadley learner*

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9,947 *Visits to Hadley's Practical Help for Low Vision videos online*

*Continuing Education enrollments* 865

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*"Thanks to Hadley's abundance of information, I was able to study and learn as much as I possibly could." —Donna Brooker, Hadley learner*

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825 *Blindness Basics enrollments*

154 *Spring into Braille readers with total braille pages read* 191,228

## board of trustees

*Hadley Trustees provide the governance and leadership that has kept Hadley in the forefront of learning for people who are blind and visually impaired. They help provide the financial support and oversight that allows Hadley to continue to grow and remain fiscally strong.*

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*Hadley's Philanthropy Advisory Council promotes the growth and strength of Hadley's planned philanthropy program through counsel, written articles and serving as ambassadors for our mission.*

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# woman's board

*The Hadley Woman's Board is the organization's single largest donor, raising more than \$5.5 million since its founding in 1953. The group generates funding and awareness through its Braille Holiday Card Sale, annual Benefit and various fundraising events throughout the year.*

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