

# **WORLD BLIND UNION**

**REPORT AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
December 31, 2023**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **To the Board of Directors of World Blind Union**

We have audited the financial statements of World Blind Union (the "organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPOs").

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPOs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## ***INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)***

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.

## ***INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)***

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Gilmore & Company LLP*

**Mississauga, Ontario  
April 5, 2024**

**Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants**

**WORLD BLIND UNION**

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31,  
(in U.S. dollars)

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 911,846	\$ 1,142,471
Accounts receivable (Note 2)	86,155	131,783
Prepaid expenses	19,526	17,047
	1,017,527	1,291,301
Investments (Note 3)	216,742	165,030
Capital assets (Note 4)	1,214	2,902
	\$ 1,235,483	\$ 1,459,233
<b>Liability, Deferred Contributions and Net Assets</b>		
Current liability:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 51,981	\$ 124,526
Deferred contributions		
Expenses of future periods (Note 5)	742,390	893,249
Capital assets (Note 5)	-	346
	794,371	1,018,121
Net Assets:		
Endowment (Note 6)	35,000	35,000
Internally restricted (Note 7)	18,700	18,700
Unrestricted	387,412	387,412
	441,112	441,112
	\$ 1,235,483	\$ 1,459,233

See accompanying notes to financial statements

On behalf of the Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

**WORLD BLIND UNION**

## Statement of Operations

December 31,  
(in U.S. dollars)

	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations and grants (Note 8)	\$ 772,009	\$ 634,938
Membership dues	297,237	288,195
Amortization of deferred capital contributi	346	971
Other	12,089	1,210
	<b>1,081,681</b>	<b>925,314</b>
<b>Expenditures (Schedule B)</b>		
Capacity building	497,556	390,792
Advocacy	332,924	333,566
Information and education	95,667	49,595
Membership related	74,426	62,327
Fund development	422	606
	<b>1,000,995</b>	<b>836,886</b>
Administration, finance and governance costs	80,686	33,818
	<b>1,081,681</b>	<b>870,704</b>
Surplus of revenue over expenditures	\$ -	\$ 54,610

See accompanying notes to financial statements

**WORLD BLIND UNION**

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets

December 31,  
(in U.S. dollars)

	Endowment (Note 6)	Internally Restricted (Note 7)	Unrestricted	<b>Total 2023</b>	Total 2022
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 35,000	\$ 18,700	\$ 387,412	\$ 441,112	\$ 386,502
Surplus of revenue over expenditures	-	-	-	-	54,610
Balance, end of year	\$ 35,000	\$ 18,700	\$ 387,412	\$ 441,112	\$ 441,112

See accompanying notes to financial statements

**WORLD BLIND UNION**

## Statement of Cash Flows

December 31,  
(in U.S. dollars)

	2023	2022
<b>Cash provided by (used in):</b>		
<b>Operating activities:</b>		
Surplus of revenue over expenditures	\$ -	\$ 54,610
Items not affecting cash:		
Change in fair value of investments	(51,712)	5,850
Amortization of deferred contributions relating to capital assets	(346)	(971)
Unamortized cost of disposed capital assets	-	216
Amortization	1,688	2,426
	(50,370)	62,131
Net changes in non-cash net assets:		
Accounts receivable	45,628	(23,925)
Prepaid expenses	(2,479)	5,236
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(72,545)	30,345
	(79,766)	73,787
<b>Financing activity</b>		
Deferred contributions - expenses of future periods	(150,859)	48,669
<b>Investing activity</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(1,585)
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash during the year</b>	<b>(230,625)</b>	<b>120,871</b>
<b>Cash, beginning of the year</b>	<b>1,142,471</b>	<b>1,021,600</b>
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 911,846</b>	<b>\$ 1,142,471</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements



## **WORLD BLIND UNION**

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

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### **Nature of the organization**

The World Blind Union (WBU) is a globally recognized non-profit organization advocating for approximately 253 million individuals worldwide who are blind or partially sighted. With a vast network spanning over 175 countries, WBU operates through its member organizations, that include both organizations led by those who are blind or partially sighted, and service providers dedicated to supporting the blind and partially sighted community.

WBU envisions a world where all those who are blind or partially sighted are able to achieve their full potential and pursue their dreams however they choose. This vision guides the WBU's mission to create the political, legal, social, and economic conditions globally for people who are blind or partially sighted to have equity, freedom, choice, and autonomy.

WBU was Incorporated in Canada on March 16, 2007 under the Canada Corporations Act and later continued under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act on December 11, 2013. WBU has been headquartered in Toronto, Canada for nearly two decades.

WBU has been a registered charity under the Income Tax Act of Canada since September 26, 2008, enabling it to enjoy tax-exempt status and issue tax-deductible receipts for donations. WBU diligently adheres to the regulatory requirements to maintain its charitable status, a commitment that management believes has been fully met.

#### **1. Significant accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

##### **Foreign currency translation**

WBU records all accounting transactions in U.S. dollars, which is its official currency. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies have been translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates prevailing at the balance sheet date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities are converted at the rate of exchange in effect at the date of the transaction. Revenues and expenditures arising from foreign currency transactions have been translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the date of the transactions. Gains and losses arising from these translation policies are included in income.

## **WORLD BLIND UNION**

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

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### **1. Significant accounting policies (continued)**

#### **Capital assets**

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Assets are amortized over their expected useful life. If a capital asset no longer contributes to WBU's operations, its carrying amount is written down to its residual value. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to expense.

Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis using the following annual rates:

Computer equipment

3 years

#### **Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period. Such estimates include the useful lives of capital assets and allowances for doubtful accounts receivable. Actual results could differ from those estimates. On an ongoing basis, management reviews its estimates and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the statement of operations in the period in which they become known.

#### **Revenue recognition**

WBU follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, that include donations, grants, and membership dues. Membership dues do not represent payment for any service rendered to members and are, therefore, in the nature of voluntary contributions received by WBU.

Externally restricted contributions, other than endowments, are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets in the year in which they are received.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

## WORLD BLIND UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

### 1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

#### Revenue recognition (continued)

Income from investments includes the realized gains or losses from the sale of units of WBU's managed investment funds, as well as interest income and unrealized gains or losses representing changes in fair value for the year. Restricted investment income attributable to endowments and deferred contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized. Unrestricted investment income and other interest are recognized as revenue when earned.

#### Financial instruments

WBU initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. WBU subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market initially and subsequently measured at fair value. Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred.

### 2. Accounts Receivable

	2023	2022
Memberships receivable	\$ 35,815	\$ 51,032
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(8,954)	(12,758)
Project and core funding receivable	48,235	82,829
Miscellaneous receivable	9,660	7,876
Sales tax rebate receivable	1,399	2,804
	<b>\$ 86,155</b>	<b>\$ 131,783</b>

### 3. Investments

	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Market	Cost	Market	Cost
Marketable securities	\$ 139,291	\$ 124,680	\$ 124,680	\$ 122,285
Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) and cash	77,451	40,351	40,350	40,000
	<b>\$ 216,742</b>	<b>\$ 165,030</b>	<b>\$ 165,030</b>	<b>\$ 162,285</b>

## WORLD BLIND UNION

### Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

#### 3. Investments (continued)

In August 2023 WBU provided a deposit of \$40,000 to the Bank of Nova Scotia as collateral for credit associated with a business VISA account. The deposit is in the form of cash available for investment.

In September 2023 WBU invested \$35,000 with the Bank of Nova Scotia for the Hermoine Grant Calhoun Scholarship Fund (Calhoun endowment).

The change in fair value of investments during the year resulting in an unrealized gain of \$16,045 (2022 - unrealized loss of \$17,607) has been included in deferred contributions since the use of such funds is externally restricted.

#### 4. Capital assets

	2023			2022
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 8,044	\$ 6,830	\$ 1,214	\$ 2,902

#### 5. Deferred contributions

Deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods represent unspent, externally restricted amounts. The amounts received and revenue during the year have been summarized and shown on Schedule A attached to the financial statements.

#### 6. Endowment

The investment income earned on the Calhoun endowment is to be used to award annual scholarships to blind female students attending college in their own country.

#### 7. Internally restricted net assets

The Board of Directors has designated certain net assets as internally restricted for the following purposes determined and approved by the Board of Directors.

	2023	2022
<b>Pedro Zurita scholarship fund</b>		
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 18,700	\$ 18,700
Balance, end of year	\$ 18,700	\$ 18,700

## WORLD BLIND UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

### 8. Donations and grants

The following represent donations and grants revenue:

	2023	2022
<b>Externally restricted:</b>		
Core Support	\$ 176,049	\$ -
Braille Program	793	-
Barbara Marjoram Braille Literacy Scholarship Fund	-	1,188
CBM Advocacy	313,973	331,503
International Disability Alliance (IDA)	224,031	227,097
Ukrainian Unity Fund	20,010	4,542
	<b>734,856</b>	614,330
<b>Unrestricted donations</b>	<b>37,153</b>	20,608
	<b>\$ 772,009</b>	\$ 634,938

### 9. Expenditures by type and area of activity

The costs of carrying out the various activities have been summarized and shown on Schedule B attached to the financial statements. Costs that cannot be specifically identified with a particular activity and that benefit more than one activity have been allocated on the basis of estimates of the portion of time expended by staff on the various activities and by other bases of cost allocation considered reasonable and applied consistently.

## **WORLD BLIND UNION**

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

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### **10. Financial instruments**

The significant financial risks to which WBU is exposed are as follows:

#### **Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Changes in the bank's prime interest rate can cause fluctuations in interest payments and cash flows. WBU does not use derivative financial instruments to alter the effects of this risk.

#### **Credit risk**

WBU is exposed to credit risk in the event of non-performance by members, as well as non-performance of other entities that have pledged donations and grants to WBU, but WBU does not anticipate such non-performance. WBU's maximum credit risk is the fair value of the accounts receivable.

#### **Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of change in market prices. WBU's investments in the stock market exposes WBU to market risk as such investments are subject to changes in the share price. WBU does not use derivative financial instruments to alter the effects of this risk.

#### **Currency risk**

Currency risk is the risk to WBU's operating results that arise from fluctuations of foreign exchange rates and the degree of volatility of these rates. WBU is exposed to foreign currency exchange risk on cash and accounts payable held in foreign currencies. WBU does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to foreign currency risk. As at December 31, 2023 Canadian denominated cash amounted to \$132,938 (2022 - \$43,985). Canadian denominated accounts receivable amounted to \$1,399 (2022 - \$6,054). Canadian denominated accounts payable and accrued liabilities amounted to \$51,981 (2022 - \$116,019).

**WORLD BLIND UNION**

Deferred Revenue Continuity  
For the Year Ended December 31,  
(in U.S. dollars)

**Schedule A****(a) Expenses of future periods**

Fund	Balance, beginning of year	Amounts received	Amounts recognized in the year as revenue	Balance, end of year 2023
Membership dues received in advance	\$ 5,946	\$ 550	\$ -	\$ 6,496
General Assembly	242,023	-	-	242,023
Calhoun Endowment	-	667	-	667
Christian Blind Mission	-	317,999	313,973	4,026
P. Zurita	2,764	683	-	3,447
Core Sponsorship Support	305,094	25,000	176,049	154,045
International Disability Alliance	31,046	224,031	224,031	31,046
Braille Programs	17,567	1,862	793	18,636
Barbara J. Marjeram Braille Literacy Scholarship Fund	21,309	1,836	-	23,145
Gerald Dirks Scholar- ship for Advancement of Braille Literacy	38,760	4,244	-	43,004
Mary Hochhausen Prize for Music and Braille Literacy	71,786	6,580	-	78,366
Spanish National Organisation of the Blind	20,943	-	-	20,943
Dansk Blindesamfund	8,991	-	-	8,991
North America Caribbean Regional Development Fund	262	-	-	262
Ukrainian Unity Fund	126,758	545	20,010	107,293
Total	\$ 893,249	\$ 583,997	\$ 734,856	\$ 742,390

**WORLD BLIND UNION**

Deferred Revenue Continuity

For the Year Ended December 31,

(in U.S. dollars)

**Schedule A****(b) Capital assets**

Fund	Balance, beginning of year	Amounts received	Amounts recognized as revenue in the year	Balance, end of year 2023
Capital assets	\$ 346	\$ -	\$ 346	\$ -



**WORLD BLIND UNION****Schedule B**

Statement of Expenditures by Type and Area of Activity  
For the Year Ended December 31,  
(In U.S. Dollars)

Type of Expenditure	Capacity building	Advocacy	Information and education	Membership	Fund development	Administration, finance and governance	Total 2023	Total 2022
Accounting	\$ 4,867	\$ 4,866	\$ 4,420	\$ 2,753	\$ -	\$ 2,481	\$ 19,387	\$ 19,786
Assistance and donations	25,010	-	-	-	-	-	25,010	4,542
Audit	4,859	-	-	-	-	8,100	12,959	5,765
Bank charges	1,459	1,459	1,326	825	-	744	5,813	4,707
Regional Assembly - travel assistance	49,334	-	-	-	-	-	49,334	-
I.T. services	362	362	329	205	-	185	1,443	1,532
Legal	-	-	793	-	-	-	793	2,459
Professional fees	19,276	17,925	12,795	7,968	-	7,183	65,147	34,723
Member dues waived	-	-	-	15,347	-	-	15,347	32,177
Office costs and supplies	449	449	408	253	-	229	1,788	2,045
Committee and project costs	101,813	-	-	-	-	-	101,813	90,827
Other costs	17,983	2,496	(1,833)	(1,141)	422	(1,011)	16,916	32,832
Postage and courier	5	5	4	3	-	2	19	97

**WORLD BLIND UNION****Schedule B**

Statement of Expenditures by Type and Area of Activity  
For the Year Ended December 31,  
(In U.S. Dollars)

Type of Expenditure	Capacity building	Advocacy	Information and education	Membership	Fund development	Administration, finance and governance	Total 2023	Total 2022
Salaries and benefits	119,278	260,599	36,705	22,860	-	20,607	460,049	479,872
Telephone	156	157	142	89	-	80	624	1,235
Translation	225	224	319	127	-	-	895	-
Travel - CBM and IDA	102,156	-	-	-	-	-	102,156	132,002
Travel - staff	379	380	345	215	-	194	1,513	2,289
Travel - officers and executives	44,072	44,073	39,978	24,962	-	41,928	195,013	5,548
Website and newsletters	5,873	(71)	(64)	(40)	-	(36)	5,662	18,266
Total	\$ 497,556	\$ 332,924	\$ 95,667	\$ 74,426	\$ 422	\$ 80,686	\$ 1,081,681	\$ 870,704