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# Nonprofit adapts to changes

**R**eading & Radio Resource is a small nonprofit agency that epitomizes that old bromide that only change is constant.

Its original name, North Texas Taping for the Blind, was changed as it expanded its service to the visually impaired and illiterate.

Like a number of other nonprofits, it took a hit recently when **United Way of Metropolitan Dallas** limited its focus to health, education and poverty.

Then there was a changing of the guard earlier this year. Executive director **Betty Hersey**, who spent 17 years at Reading & Radio Resource, stepped down in February to assume the helm at **DME Exchange of Dallas**, a nonprofit agency founded by **Dallas Area Interfaith** that provides secondhand items such as walking canes and wheelchairs for the poor.

In July, **Teri Walker**, executive director of the **Aberg Center for Literacy**, was recruited to succeed Hersey. Aberg Center teaches English fluency, GED preparation and family literacy. In Walker's six-year tenure, it increased the number of annual students it served by 600 percent.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, Walker was also the membership development director for the **Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas**.

Walker announced another recent change at the agency: "On Oct. 1, Reading & Radio Resource released our first subscription-based membership option. For \$60 a year, anyone may join Reading & Radio Resource to access our podcast collection of our locally produced radio shows and our library of public-domain books and short stories through a variety of personal electronic devices."

The agency has an annual budget of \$480,000, Walker said. Despite the fact that it lost its annual stipend from United Way, Walker said, "The change in United Way's direction gave Reading & Radio Resource an opportunity to take stock in how we can best meet the needs of the community and how we can leverage our great location and multiple product offerings."

"We serve readers of all ages. Elementary-aged children now have the acclaimed Bluebonnet award-winning books fully accessible each year," she said. "Adults with vision loss can enjoy both our extensive collection of books and our local radio station NTRB either in streaming or on a special radio ordered from our website, [readingresource.org](http://readingresource.org)."

The agency has a partnership with Dallas County schools that gives DISD libraries free audio copies of the annual Bluebonnet, 2x2, Illuminaria and Lone Star book lists to use with students with diagnosed reading impairments, Walker said.

"We employ a team of seven full-time and four part-time employees, but the secret to our success is our team of more than 300 annual volunteers," she said.

"We are currently working on providing audio versions of essential information and parenting education to the one in five Texas adults who are not yet able to read and providing audio versions of GED preparation classes to the 28 percent of Dallas adults who do not yet have a high school education."

To learn more, call 214-871-7668 or visit [www.readingresource.org](http://www.readingresource.org).