

IFB Beat

STAY CONNECTED

Weekly Corporate Newsletter | October 18, 2021



News to Know

October: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

#NDEAM



Mike Fenley, regional representative for N.C Senator Burr and Stephanie Blair, regional representative for N.C Senator Tillis toured our Winston-Salem facility last week. We appreciate their support of our mission and the work they are doing to create jobs for people who are blind.

Assistive Technology Support Group Celebrates #NDEAM

The Assistive Technology support group will host a special meeting on Thursday October 21, at 7 PM EDT via zoom. We will tie technology and employment opportunities together in this unique presentation. We will be joined by a very special guest, Jennifer Wenzel, Talent Acquisition Coordinator for Beyond Vision. Wenzel herself is blind and is a certified JAWS user. She will share with us some key strategies for finding a job and will discuss some of the challenges faced when it comes to finding employment, and ways those of us who are blind can be successful in our pursuit of gainful employment. [*Zoom link at the end of this newsletter.](#)

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For Management Only: Send information for the IFB Beat to Anastasia Powell, at communications@ifbsolutions.org by 5:00 each Wednesday. Thank you!

Attention All Winston-Salem and Little-Rock Employees:



Get ready for fun and food at the Annual company picnic!
Winston-Salem: Thursday, October 28 from 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM.

Little Rock: Thursday, October 28 at 11:00.

There will be a Halloween parade directly before each picnic. Dress in your best costume for a chance to win a prize. Enjoy!

Attention Asheville Employees:

Flu shots are available. If an employee is interested, please let your supervisor know and the nurse will arrange for your shot.

Executive Team Pink Hair Challenge

“Vote” for your favorite Executive Team member by dropping money in jars!
In Winston-Salem, you can find donate jars in these departments:

Oct 19-21 Tina Jolly
Oct 22-27 Front Lobby

Winner announced Oct. 28th!

You can also text your donation! Text one of these names exactly as shown to 41444 to vote.

**IFBHAMPTON IFBHORTON IFBDAN IFBVASUDHA IFBSILAS
IFBKEN IFBROB**

*****All dollars raised will support programs for students who are blind at our Tracy’s Little Red Schoolhouse!***

COVID-19 Education



The last day to submit proof of vaccination to staysafe@ifbsolutions.org is October 17th at midnight to be entered into the drawing for a chance to win \$500. Covid drawings will be announced throughout the day Monday, October 18th at all IFB locations.

Programs and Services

Raise Your Sleeve and Save a Life!



Red Cross Blood Drive Hosted by AAA Committee

Did you know?

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Your donations assist with heart surgeries, revitalizing accident victims, organ transplant recipients, and patients needing lifesaving procedures. So, will you raise your sleeve and help someone have a second chance in life?

When: October 20, 2021

Where: Tad's Room (Winston-Salem)

Time: 10:00 am-2:30 pm, Contact your supervisor to set up an appointment to donate.

Admin contact: Chris Flynt at cflynt@ifbsolutions.org or Anastasia Powell at apowell@ifbsolutions.org

[Adult Support Group Meetings: \(Winston-Salem Only\)](#)

Monday, October 18 AAA Committee meeting from 12:00-1:00 in TADS Room

Tuesday, October 19 VIPS Club meeting (Living with Blindness) from 12:00-1:00 in TADS Room

Wednesday, October 20 Diabetic support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 at the Little Red Schoolhouse

Thursday, October 21 Assistive Technology support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 in TADS Room and 7:00pm-8:00pm via zoom [*Zoom link at bottom of newsletter](#)

Community Low Vision Centers

[CLVC Item of the Week \(All Locations\)](#)

CLVC Item of the Week: Pasta Pot with Strainer Lid- 5-Quart- Red
The safe, easy way to cook and drain pasta

Cooking pasta or any type of food that needs draining just became a whole lot safer and easier! Put away your old colander— simply put the lid with a built-in strainer on, turn it slightly to lock, and drain hot water with confidence. Made from aluminum, the

pasta pot allows perfect heat conduction, and the non-stick interior ensures evenly cooked pasta every single time. Price/\$59.95

To learn more about the Community Low Vision Center visit our [website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#).

Community Connections

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services released a draft of its Olmstead Plan designed to assist people with disabilities to reside in and experience the full benefit of inclusive communities. The plan is open for public comment through Oct. 27, 2021. NCDHHS encourages all interested individuals and organizations to provide comment on this draft plan. NCDHHS will publish the final, two-year plan in December and begin implementing activities outlined in the plan in calendar years 2022 and 2023.

The Olmstead Plan will serve as a blueprint for the way that NCDHHS and its state government partners make decisions central to improving the lives of people with disabilities. The plan will seek to divert people from entering institutions and support those wishing to leave by offering an array of community living services and supports. Access to housing, employment, transportation, and other aspects of community life are addressed in the plan. "This draft plan will commit North Carolina to a future where people with disabilities can access the array of publicly-funded services in their communities they need to live everyday life, side-by-side with friends, family and neighbors," said Dave Richard, NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for NC Medicaid. "Realizing the promise of the Olmstead ruling requires all of us working together.

Insider Corner

Desiring, Observing, and Implementing

By: Firoz Pathan



In 2015, William Lindsay became the new Supervisor for Advanced Combat Shirt (ACS) department at the IFB manufacturing facility in Winston-Salem. Over the past six years, he has supervised T-Shirts while simultaneously directing the Ripstock Army Battle Uniforms (RABU) department when necessary.

With over thirty-three years of comprehensive knowledge of manufacturing, Mr. Lindsay has brought a great sense of determination to his career at IFB. His history includes careers at R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, FedEx, and Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

When asked where his drive to succeed comes from, he explained “My confidence comes from watching and learning how to do from others. If they can succeed so can I.”

When it comes to respecting his workers, Mr. Lindsay states, “I always show employees respect and receive it in return. You get treated how you treat others.”

Always willing to assist where he can, Mr. Lindsay has joined support groups, driven for various events, and encouraged his workers by holding them to achievable standards. This dedication earned him the Delmer Wall Outstanding Service Award in 2016.

“Whenever I see potential in someone who is blind or visually impaired, I encourage them to move up within the company. Not saying they are too good to work in manufacturing, but their skills are more beneficial in other positions,” he shares.

Prior to working at IFB Solutions, William had experience with the blind community, as his great grandmother was totally blind. Through observation he learned how she traveled, kept track of money and bills, and was able to thrive despite vision loss. She was the one who nicknamed him, JoJo. “I learned a lot from my great grandmother. She was a sharp woman who confidently lived her life her way,” he shared.

As far as individuals who are visually impaired making glasses and sewing Mr. Lindsay states, “I didn’t have a clue of their skills until I walked into this building. I knew about Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind when they were downtown (1936 - 1981), but when I arrived, I was impressed with the workers output, quality, pride, and desire to work.”

Mr. Lindsay has been happily married for the past twenty-five years with three adult children. He enjoys spending time at home with his family. During his career with IFB, there were just as many challenging times as good, but overall, William Lindsay strived to exceed expectations for himself and his employees. Mr. Lindsay states, “As long as you come to work and do the best you can, that is all that matters!”

Zoom Meeting (Adult Support Groups)

<https://ifbsolutions.zoom.us/j/99498078576?pwd=ODJzK0sxcXZrME9yN25YRTdiNXBSQT09>

Meeting ID: 994 9807 8576

PASSWORD: 92638

One tap mobile

+13017158592,99498078576# US (Germantown) 13126266799,99498078576# US

Dial by your location.

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 994 9807 8576

Assistive Technology Support Group Meeting Zoom Link:

<https://ifbsolutions.zoom.us/j/94434630872?pwd=aXFYSHYyWkh1SE1tWDNOdDIwVURwUT09>

Meeting ID: 944 3463 0872

Passcode: 924496