



Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
O 336.759.0551 F 336.759.0990  
7730 North Point Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27106  
IFBSolutions.org



Team IFB,

This year has presented us with many challenges. We knew from the moment our Board of Directors approved our \$0 based budget for 2022 it was going to be difficult given the environmental headwinds. The disruptions from the continuing global pandemic and inflation have, and will continue, to heavily impact our costs for both labor and materials. The final troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and fewer overseas deployments have significantly changed the mix of products our customers require. These factors have created a negative impact on IFB Solutions' overall top-line revenue, down nearly 25% year over year, and have put further pressures on our bottom-line financial performance.

Today we have made some very hard decisions to layoff several team members. This reduction in force was necessary to align our costs with forecast sales and to ensure IFB Solutions' mission remains intact for many years to come. These decisions are painful, and please be assured we are providing what resources we can to help these individuals land on their feet.

Additionally, we have closed our Twenty200 Eyewear optical dispensary on Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. Running a single unit retail operation has drained marketing and operations resources away from our wholesale sales and service strategies that are growth areas in our optical lab business.

Over the next few days, my Executive Team and I will be outlining additional cost savings and revenue and employment generating actions we need to take as a team to drive both mission success and financial sustainability. Many of you are already working on key projects through our strategic initiatives. I am confident that with your active engagement, IFB Solutions will not only navigate the short-term but thrive for the next three generations of people who are blind.

Sincerely,

David Horton  
President and CEO  
IFB Solutions

# IFB Beat

## STAY CONNECTED

Weekly Corporate Newsletter | Feb 14, 2022



## News to Know

### A Message with Love from S.E.E.



## Happy Valentine's Day!

We hope you have a wonderful Valentine's Day today. Pat Smith, Little Rock Advisory Council member and volunteer, Diana Soto, Employee of the Year, Kim Flanagan, S.E.E. instructor and Anastasia Powell, Communications team, brailled lovely thank you cards for our donors. Our community is so supportive of our mission and our S.E.E. program, so we wanted to show the love!

*Want to join the S.E.E. program and be a part of a special team that changes the lives of kids who are blind or visually impaired? Scroll down to the Job Opportunities section.*

## ISSUE Sections

[News to Know](#) ..... [page 1](#)

[Programs and Services](#) ..... [page 3](#)

[CLVC/Community Connections](#) ..... [page 5](#)

[Opportunities/Insider/](#) ..... [page 6](#)

### Attention Winston-Salem Employees:

The Administration Building, including the manufacturing floor, will be CLOSED on Friday, FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup> (this does NOT include Low Vision or the Optical Department). Duke Energy must replace a transformer and we will not have electricity in the admin building. We ask that all office staff make plans accordingly.

### [Sign up! IFB Solutions Impact Newsletter](#)

Do you want to stay up to date on IFB Solutions events, stories, and programs? Sign up [here](#) for our newsletter designed for donors and our community!



Want to get the IFB Beat via email? Contact Faith Harding at [fharding@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:fharding@ifbsolutions.org) or Shonn Redmond at [sredmond@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:sredmond@ifbsolutions.org)

Listen to the IFB Beat by calling 336-245-5691 (English) or 336-245-5663 (Spanish)

To submit info for the IFB Beat email [communications@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:communications@ifbsolutions.org)

Miss an issue? [Click HERE](#)

## [COVID Information](#)

### **NEW: NFB and Aira Partner to Make Covid Test Results Accessible**

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and Aira, creators of the live, on-demand visual interpreting tool that connects people who are blind to sighted individuals who describe visual surroundings, announced they are partnering to make Covid-19 at-home testing accessible. Call Aira at (1.800.835.1934) and receive professional visual interpreting assistance with any type of Covid-19 rapid antigen or PCR home test. Users do not need to be Aira subscribers or member of NFB to use this free service but must set up a free Aira guest account.

[Click here to learn more and download the Aira app.](#)

### **COVID-19 Booster reminder:**

If you received your primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna you are eligible to get a booster at least 5 months after your second dose and at least 2 months after the single shot J&J. If you are unsure when your booster is due, please consult your PCP, your local HR representative or medical team member (if available) or Angela Jordan, Director of Safety and Environmental Health. [Ajordan@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:Ajordan@ifbsolutions.org)

## [February is Low Vision Awareness Month](#)



Learn more about low vision by contacting our Community Low Vision Centers in Little Rock, Winston-Salem, and Asheville.

Protect your vision by seeing your doctor regularly.

### **Did you know?**

- *Vision* impairments in people younger than age 40 are mainly caused by refractive errors, which affect 25% of children and adolescents, and accidental *eye* injury. (Source: CDC)
- People who suffer from low vision may not only have difficulty seeing in their day-to-day life, but this vision problem can also lead to a variety of other vision difficulties, such as blind spots, tunnel vision, loss of contrast and even blindness.

[www.communitylowvision.org](http://www.communitylowvision.org)

## Low Vision Awareness Month Cont...

### LVAM Awareness:

- Many people with low vision are sensitive to light, so wearing a baseball cap when outside will block a lot of the glare, making it easier to see.
- Handling cash can be done by feel. Quarters are larger and have ridges on the sides. Dimes are small and have the same ridges. With nickels, they are between a quarter and a penny in size but have no ridges. Pennies are slightly larger than dimes and have no ridges.
- Many people who are visually impaired fold their bank notes in different ways for easier identification. Some also may use an app on their Smart phone that tells them what the denominations are, or they use a device from the Department of Treasury that can identify denominations.

## Programs and Services

Braille classes (Winston-Salem) will be held in TAD's room Tuesdays 2 to 2:30 PM for advanced students and Thursdays 2 to 2:30 PM for beginning students. Please come and join in the fun and learning.

### See What S.E.E is Doing



**S.E.E. After School Winston kids have been preparing for winter activities with art, games, stories, snacks, and music. At Kaleideum North, they had fun with throwing small pillow snowballs, building with foam ice blocks, and ice skating in their socks on the wooden floor winter exhibit. This tire that S.E.E. kids are touching at Kaleideum North in the space exhibit was on a shuttle that went to space and returned to earth. We got to touch something that has really been to space!**

*Want a job in the S.E.E. program? Scroll down to Job Opportunities.*

### **Guide Dog Etiquette Reminder**



- **Guide dogs are not pets.**
- **When in harness, the dog is working.**
- **Do not call the dog by name, especially when he/she is leading the owner as it distracts the dog.**
- **Do not pet the dog when in harness. If the dog is out of harness, only pet with the owner's permission.**
- **Only the owners are to feed their dogs. If you have a treat for a dog, give it to the owner out of view of the dog.**
- **If you see a dog out from under the table or in a walkway, let the owner know so the owner can move the dog.**

### **Adult Support Group Meetings:**

- **Tuesday, February 15 VIPS Club meeting from 12:00-1:00 in TADS Room.**
- **Wednesday, February 16 Diabetic support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 in TADS Room.**
- **Thursday, February 17 Assistive Technology support group meeting from 7:00-8:00 via Zoom.**
- **Saturday, February 19 NFB support group meeting from 3:00-4:00 via Zoom.**  
(Zoom link at bottom of newsletter.)

# Community Low Vision Center

## CLVC Item of the Week

**Thick line Paper - \$4.95.** The perfect paper for those that need wide spaces (1/2 inch) and thick, dark lines to write on. Recommended for those who have trouble seeing, or who are learning to write. The perfect alternative to traditional lined paper. 100 sheets per pad. 8 1/2x11. White with black, extra-thick lines. No holes. 1/2 between lines.

## February Item of the Month:

**Tactile Puzzle Cube- Modified for the Blind**

The classic puzzle with a tactile twist! This blind-accessible version of the best-selling ultimate brain-teasing puzzle has been enhanced with tactile markings on all sides.

*Interested in purchasing these products? Or are you interested in purchasing low vision equipment through our Loan Program (3<sup>rd</sup> Party), please contact a Low Vision Coordinator for assistance.*

[www.communitylowvision.org](http://www.communitylowvision.org)



Community  
Low Vision  
Center /

## Community Connections



IFB Solutions



The Winter 2022 issue of *Opportunity Magazine* created by National Industries for the Blind is now available online. The issue includes a cover story about how employees at NIB associated agencies serve their communities. IFB Solutions is recognized for their service at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Read more: [WWW.NIB.org/opportunity](http://WWW.NIB.org/opportunity)

Accessible version: [CLICK HERE](#)

## Insider Corner

Have interesting information to share or topic you would like to see in the Insider Corner? Whether it's your favorite podcast, website, or article that caught your attention, send to Faith Harding at [fharding@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:fharding@ifbsolutions.org).

### **How Digital Content Empowers Braille Literacy**

Braille is an essential tool that promotes literacy for individuals who are blind. It provides a means of reading and writing at home, in school, and in the workplace that can't be substituted by any other means of accessibility. Read more at:

<https://blog.freedomscientific.com/how-digital-content-empowers-braille-literacy/>

### **3 Ways Focusing on Office Accessibility Can Boost Your Reputation and ROI**

Making your office maximally accessible to people with disabilities or limitations is not just the right thing to do — it also gives teams additional communication and productivity tools. Through prioritize connections, making room for continuing education, and supplying the correct tools, your company is more likely to make a meaningful impact throughout its industry. Read the entire article at:

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/411625>

## Opportunities

### **We are HeRe for you!**

According to statistics, only 37% of renters in the U.S. have renters' insurance. This is significantly low considering the number of renters in the U.S. If you are a renter, in the event of an emergency, it's important you know the apartment/house you are renting from are not required to cover loss of your personal belongings or ANY loss you may suffer during an emergency. For more information you can go to: <https://www.trustedchoice.com/renters-insurance/coverage-faq/> or set up an appointment to speak with Haleigh Yarboro, our Certified HR Transition Representative to assist.

[Click here to go directly to the page](#)

### **Job Announcements**

Share your experience with children, youth, and adults as a part time driver for the programs department. Feel like a chauffeur taking adults to social events. Show you care by picking up S.E.E. kids for after school. Help promote Sensitivity to Blindness as you drive the team to training events in outreach locations. Many opportunities wait for the person willing to drive part time because programs make a difference in people's lives. Job candidate must already be an IFB employee. If you are interested, please contact Chris Flynt at 336-245-5620 or [cflynt@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:cflynt@ifbsolutions.org).

## Adult Support Group: Join Zoom Meeting

<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

*If you would like to receive the IFB Beat via email please contact Faith Harding at [fharding@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:fharding@ifbsolutions.org) or Shonn Redmond at [sredmond@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:sredmond@ifbsolutions.org) to be added to the list. Or listen to the IFB Beat by calling our English-line 336-245-5691; Spanish-line, 336-245-5663. To submit information to the IFB Beat, email [communications@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:communications@ifbsolutions.org)*