

# IFB Beat | February 28, 2022

## News to Know

### Congratulations to our 2022 Employee Award Winners!

Here's more on their stories and hard work to earn their awards.



**Luis Quiles**

*Winston-Salem, NC*

**2022 Overall Employee  
of the Year**

### **Luis Quiles (Winston-Salem) – Overall Employee of the Year**

For the past ten years, the 2022 IFB Solutions Overall Employee of the Year, Luis Quiles, has embraced a Mission Possible outlook on life. Deciding to change his view of having low vision from a hindrance to benefit strengthened his tenacity. Originally from Puerto Rico, he obtained a degree in Business Administration from DeVry College, is a proficient Spanish/English translator, and a positive influence on our Latin community.

Beginning his journey in IFB's Puerto Rico location, he moved to Winston-Salem years later for opportunities of upward mobility. Working in various departments starting in manufacturing, he became a Salesclerk in our BSC Cuba location, an Optical Technician, and is currently Optical's Lead Shipper.

Born with ocular histoplasmosis, which produces scarring on the macular of the retina, he is well versed in the difficulties individuals

cope with having low vision in Puerto Rico. Being grateful for his journey with IFB, his desire for upward mobility, inspiration of coworkers and friends, and participation on the bowling team, his eagerness towards success continues to flow. With great work ethics, reliability, and inspiration of those crossing his path, we are honored to have Luis Quiles embody IFB's Ethical to the Core value as our Overall Employee of the Year for 2022!



**Jake Padalino**

*Asheville, NC*

**2022 Asheville Facility  
Employee of the Year**

### **Jake Padalino – Asheville Facility Employee of the Year**

The 2022 Asheville Facility Employee of the Year, Jake Padalino, has been with IFB Solutions for five years. This employee works as a Sewing Machine Operator in the Poncho Liner department. Speaking of him as just a Sewing Machine Operator is a bit of a misnomer. Being the versatile person he is, this employee has worked in various departments, packages products, and embraces the challenge of spreading and cutting material. Furthermore, when an emergency happens, he is one of our First Responders.

Jake's infectious love for outdoors and teaching has made him a popular S.E.E. Camp and Adventure Camp Counselor. With numerous memorable events under his belt, he thrives in his favorite environment while encouraging, instructing, and inspiring youth. As an example of a successful person with low vision, he's been invited to talk with young people with the same eye condition as his, providing encouragement toward their dreams. His philosophy is, "Any endeavor worth undertaking will be difficult."

**In the summertime it's rare to see his truck without a paddle board or kayak strapped to it. After a long day of sewing, packing, and spreading, he heads toward the river. Jake may be visually impaired, but he lives every day to its fullest by working, doing what he enjoys, and inspiring others to do the same. He truly embodies IFB Solutions' core value of Mission Possible. We are honored to have Jake Padalino as the Asheville Facility Employee of the Year for 2022!**



**Wesley Hillman**

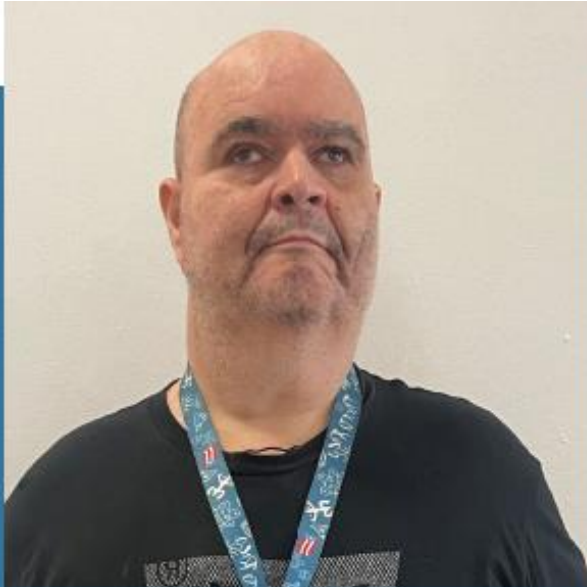
*Little Rock, AR*

**2022 Little Rock Facility  
Employee of the Year**

### **Wesley Hillman – Little Rock Facility Employee of the Year**

**The 2022 Little Rock Facility Employee of the Year, Wesley Hillman, has been with IFB Solutions for four years. Working on multiple machines in the Paper department, he's very honored to produce military products. His inspiration stems from his great-grandfather and grandfather's formal services in the Army and Navy. It warms his heart to feel all the pride they would have had for their grandson. The passion and positive outlook this employee display towards his work spreads throughout the plant.**

**Outside of the normal roles of employment, Wesley is eager to share his story with the community. Through his focus on the life changing aspects of working for IFB Solutions, he was recently featured in a video shown to potential donors. He exemplifies IFB's core values of Business with a Heart and Mission Possible. We are honored to have Wesley Hillman as the Little Rock Facility Employee of the Year for 2022!**



**Carlos Alicea**

*Cabo Rojo, PR*

**2022 Puerto Rico Operations Employee of the Year**

### **Carlos Alicea – Puerto Rico Operation Employee of the Year**

**The 2022 Puerto Rico Operations Employee of the Year, Carlos Alicea, has been with IFB Solutions for several years. If there's a job to be done, you'll find this employee first in line! Born with rhinitis pigmentosa, a hereditary eye disease, he quickly began tackling the challenges of vision loss. Several days were tough but he never allowed his visual impairment to act as a barrier. Exploring opportunities for more independence, he attended a job training course gaining necessary skills required for the workforce. Upon completion, he contacted IFB Solutions Puerto Rico Operations location and happily started his journey of gainful employment.**

**Carlos is an Automatic Machine Operator. He works on various sewing machines and textile lines. He thrives in producing quality work and meeting production requirements. Growing up in a household with five brothers, he is no stranger to teamwork. If he is finished with his job, he's always looking for ways to help others meet company goals. He embraces acquiring new responsibilities with more challenges and is a great team player.**

**Carlos never imagined working for IFB Solutions would be so life-changing. He says, "Working at IFB has made me more independent and my dream of buying a home obtainable." He may be visually impaired, but he lives every day with a great attitude and inspires others to do the same. He truly embodies the core values of Business with a Heart and Commitment to Excellence. We are pleased to have Carlos Alicea represent IFB Puerto Rico Operations as the 2022 Employee of the Year!**



**Melissa Tuttle**

*Winston-Salem, NC*

**2022 Career Achiever  
of the Year**

### **Melissa Tuttle (Winston-Salem) – Career Achiever of the Year**

**For the past eleven years, the 2022 Overall Career Achiever of the Year, Melissa Tuttle, has graced IFB Solutions with an impenetrable desire to flourish. Her attention to details, savvy computer skills, and quick learning ability provided her with the opportunities to work in Winston-Salem’s Supply Chain.**

**Despite being the only low vision person she knew growing up, she refused to let her visual limitations caused by nystagmus and cataracts become a hindrance. As she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Western Carolina University, she knew her career limitations and focused on her capabilities. Graduating with a major in Computer Information Systems and successfully utilizing traditional routes for employment, she’s an inspiration to everyone. She states, “If you want something bad enough, you’ll find a way to get it done.”**

**Embodying the core values of Commitment to Excellence and Mission Possible, we are honored to have Melissa Tuttle be the 2022 Career Achiever of the Year!**





**Mary Hunter**

*Asheville, NC*

**2022 Delmer Wall  
Outstanding Service  
Awardee**

### **Mary Hunter (Asheville) – Delmer Wall Outstanding Service Award**

**The Delmer Wall Outstanding Service Award is presented to an employee who is sighted. Mary goes above and beyond her job description making an impactful difference in the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired. For several years, Mary has been supporting the work and mission of IFB. She is a wonderful person and friend to all of our IFB Solutions Asheville employees. Her passion for helping those who are blind fuels her inspiration to go the extra mile to assist in numerous ways such as providing rides for critical appointments. Her leadership has contributed greatly to many lives and is a great example of what the Delmer Wall Outstanding Service Award represents. Embodying IFB's core value of Business with a Heart, we are excited to have Mary as our 2022 Delmer Wall Outstanding Service Award winner!**

### **Steps to S.E.E. Walkathon 2022 launches March 1!**

**We are looking for your support to help us spread the word about our campaign to send kids who are visually impaired to S.E.E. Camps this summer. Students will walk in the area of their choice, track their steps/miles, submit them weekly to a S.E.E. coordinator in their area, start their Just Giving fundraising pages, and promote their campaign through personal network asking friends and family to support their efforts. Our goal is for each student to walk at least 20 miles!**

**April 31 – last day of walking. Miles records are due to S.E.E. program coordinators or Ksenia Richards.**

**May 14 – S.E.E. Field Day @ Alexander Graham Middle School, Charlotte – a fun celebration of all walkers and S.E.E. participants. We'll share the total amount raised for S.E.E. Camps! Community is welcome to volunteer and participate in our celebration!**

**Ready to Support? Here's how!**

- 1. Go to our Just Giving campaign:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/SEE2022>. Click “Start Fundraising”, “Give Now” or select a student fundraiser you want to support.**
- 2. Share with friends and family: Just Giving pages have easy ways to share to Facebook, Twitter, and email – support our students and share why you like their stories!**
- 3. Collect donations: When you share a Just Giving page, your network has an easy way to donate directly to IFB.**
- 4. Join our Facebook Event page for updates (available after March 1).**
- 5. Or become a fundraiser: just click “Start Fundraising” on the campaign Just Giving page on the link above.**

**Questions? Contact Ksenia Richards at any time!  
[krichards@ifbsolutions.org](mailto:krichards@ifbsolutions.org) or 336-245-5655.**

**Winston-Salem Mattress Store Update:**

**The mattress store is no longer open to the public. Mattress sales are available to employees only. If interested in purchasing a mattress, please contact the Community Low Vision Center. Thank you!**

**COVID-19 Information:**

**Free N95 masks are now available at pharmacies, retailers, and health centers nationwide, as part of the government's effort to combat COVID-19. Want to know How many times you can reuse an N95 mask? Click [here](#) for more information.**

## **Programs and Services**

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



**S.E.E. After School Winston learned about penguins on a cold winter day this February. They had a blast making penguins made of Oreo cookies, white icing, chocolate chips, and candy corn. This is a yummy treat after waddling like a penguin for gross motor skills and discovering whether icebergs (in a dishpan full of water) are above or below the icy water line where penguins slide and swim.**

### **Adult Support Group Meetings: [\(Zoom info at end of newsletter\)](#)**

- **Monday, February 28 Guide Dog support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 in TADS Room.**
- **Tuesday, March 1 VIPS Club meeting from 12:00-1:00 in TADS Room.**
- **Wednesday, March 2 RP support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 in TADS Room.**
- **Thursday, March 3 Sight Adjustment support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 in TADS Room**

## **Community Low Vision Center**

### **CLVC Item of the Week:**

**Elastic Strap Accessory for Talking Food Cans | Price: \$0.99**

**This elastic strap is intended for use as a replacement or extra strap to affix talking food caps to cans as part of the Talking Food Can System**



### **CLVC March item of the month:**

**Talking Food Cans: Easily Identify Food and Other Household Items |  
Price: \$25.95**

- **Record voice descriptions telling contents of cans**
- **Press button to hear message played back**
- **Reusable and re-recordable**

**The product comes in the form of a magnetic yellow cap that sits on top of any sized steel can. The cap allows you to record a short voice message, which can then be played back at any time with the touch of a button. It is very easy to use, and the voice messages can be rerecorded over and over making the product reusable time and time again.**

**If you are interested in purchasing Low Vision Equipment through our Loan Program (3<sup>rd</sup> Party), please contact a Low Vision Coordinator for assistance.**

## **Insider Corner**

### **Why Participate in sight Adjustment Support Group?**

**Sight Adjustment Support Group is designed to assist people dealing with vision loss. It doesn't matter if you lost your vision last week or years ago, your sight is classified low vision or totally blind, you utilize a cane or guide dog, or you read large print or braille, Sight Adjustment covers a variety of relatable topics helping you adjust to this new phase in your life. We want you to thrive in your life no matter what your vision is. Bryant Ballard and Angela Haynes are leaders of this group.**

**“By sharing our personal experiences, we learn from each other as sight adjustment differs from person to person. When you join this group, you have firsthand access to the information we put out monthly. Whether through our various speakers or our personal experiences, the plan is to have participants we think will benefit from this gathering,” - Angela Haynes**

**Join us the first Thursday of every month in Tad's room from 12:00 to 1:00pm.**

Have some 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) and we'll post it!

## **Community Connections**

**The Winston Salem Recreation and Parks has an inclusive birding program.**

Come out and participate. We will meet the first Saturday of March, April, and May at 10am in the parking lot of Family Services, located at 1200 S Broad Street. There will be leaders from Gateway Nature Preserve in attendance. For more information email: [katiea@cityofws.org](mailto:katiea@cityofws.org).

**The North Carolina Homeowner Assistance Fund is now open.**

This program will assist homeowners that have experienced financial hardship due to the covid-19 pandemic. For more information go to:

**[Home - NC Homeowner Assistance Fund \(nchaf.gov\)](https://www.nchaf.gov/)**

**[Eligibility - NC Homeowner Assistance Fund \(nchaf.gov\)](https://www.nchaf.gov/eligibility)**

## **Opportunities**

**We are HeRe for you!**

Did you know that you may qualify for assistance with getting your taxes completed or maybe even qualify for special tax breaks and benefits? There are even certain situations where you may qualify for property tax relief for those living in North Carolina. For more information, there are a few websites listed below with more detail. Or if you need help finding some of these state resources, please set up an appointment with Haleigh Yarboro, our Certified HR Transition Representative via the ticketing system.

**<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/more-information-for-people-with-disabilities>**

**<https://turbotax.intuit.com/tax-tips/disability/tax-tips-for-the-blind/L80haiutG>**

**<https://www.forsyth.cc/Tax/exemptions.aspx>  
**Renters Insurance****

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](#)**

### **IMPORTANT HR UPDATE:**

Please note that Haleigh Yarboro has changed offices. She is now located on the hall off of the executive hallway right outside of the health clinic and near Anastasia Powell's office.

### **Job Announcements**

For more information please contact Brent Burkholder at X5611.

### **Sighted Driver**

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 Groups – Zoom Info**

**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+(Chicago)**

**Dial by your location.**

**877-853-5257 US Toll-free**

**888-475-4499 US Toll-free**

**Meeting ID: 994 9807 8576**