

IFB Beat | March 7, 2022

News to Know

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. Or become a fundraiser: just click “Start Fundraising” on the campaign Just Giving page on the link above.

[Follow IFB Solutions on Facebook for updates.](#) Questions? Contact Ksenia Richards at any time! 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:

IFB Solutions has removed the mask mandate at our Winston-Salem, NC and Clemmons, NC facilities, coinciding with the City of Winston-Salem removing the city-wide mask mandate on March 1. No mask requirements are in place at our Asheville and Little Rock facilities.

IFB employees may still choose to wear masks and face shields while at work, and we ask that you respect the individual choices of those who continue. Visitors to IFB Solutions are not required to wear a mask.

Important notes:

- Per federal law, masks are still required on public transportation, including city buses and Trans Aid.**
- Masks are required in IFB Solutions medical/nurse offices per CDC guidelines for medical facilities.**
- Employees of the Community Low Vision Center and S.E.E. Programs will continue to mask when working with customers and participants.**
- Community Low Vision Center customers and S.E.E. Program participants are strongly encouraged to wear a mask, and signage will reflect such at their entrances.**

IFB Solutions has been at zero active cases for more than two weeks and will continue to monitor numbers with the option to adjust future mask policy accordingly. You can view the most recent numbers [here](#).

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to staysafe@ifbsolutions.org.

Programs and Services

The NFB support group is collecting broken or used canes at our Winston-Salem Facility.

These canes will be cleaned up and repaired for people who are blind in third world countries that do not have access to canes for safe travel.

We will be collecting canes through the end of September. Please support this effort by putting your broken or used canes in the collection box located in the TADs Room in the Winston-Salem Facility by the braille cabinet.

You can also give your canes to an NFB member:

- Brian Ballard, vinyl department
- Tonya Patterson, vinyl department
- Angela Hanes, ACS department
- Bob Parson, ACS department

Thank you in advance for your support!

Adult Support Group Meetings: (Zoom info at end of newsletter)

- Monday, March 7 AAA Committee meeting from 12:00-1:00 in TADS Room.
- Tuesday, March 8 Transportation support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 in TADS Room.

Community Low Vision Center

CLVC Item of the Week:

Talking Thermostat for Multiple Stage Systems | Price: \$209.95

This thermostat is designed to be the most user-friendly programmable thermostat on the market. Features include verbal step by step programming help, verbal announcement of temperature and settings, verbal dirty filter alert, and an oversized LCD display. This is the more advanced VIP3000 which operates on up to three stages of

heating and two stages of cooling for both conventional and heat pump systems and can be set to automatically switch between heating and cooling – as determined by the thermostat temperature.

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 (3rd Party), please contact a Low Vision Coordinator for assistance.

Insider Corner

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 and we'll post it!

Community Connections

For the first time in two years, Social Security offices nationwide are set to open their doors.

The Social Security Administration is expected to reopen more than 1,200 field offices starting March 30 under an agreement reached this month with the unions representing workers for the agency. However, the exact date could still change since negotiations are ongoing and the situation with the pandemic continues to evolve.

Under the new agreement, all employees and visitors will be required to wear masks in Social Security offices, whether or not they are vaccinated.

“This agreement is only the first step, but we now have a path forward to begin reopening SSA offices and worksites in a manner that protects both the health and safety of employees and the public we serve,” said Rich Couture, chief negotiator for the American Federation of Government Employees, one of three labor unions representing Social Security workers.

For more information go to, www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling the national 800 number (1-800-772-1213) or your local office.

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 \(nchaf.gov\)](http://nchaf.gov)

[Eligibility - NC Homeowner Assistance Fund \(nchaf.gov\)](http://nchaf.gov)

Opportunities

We are HeRe for you!

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

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

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.

Manager of Procurement and Demand Planning- Winston Salem

Education and work experience:

- 4-year Degree in related field required. MBA preferred.
- 4 plus years' experience in logistics management required. Preferably in a manufacturing environment.
- 2 or more years' experience managing people required.

Internal candidates may apply [here](#).

External candidates may apply [here](#).

For more information, please contact Brent Burkholder at 336 245 5611 or bburkholder@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