

IFB Beat | March 14, 2022

News to Know

Steps to S.E.E. Walkathon 2022!

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!

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**
- 5. Or become a fundraiser: just click Start Fundraising on the campaign Just Giving page.**

**Questions? Contact Ksenia Richards at any time!
krichards@ifbsolutions.org or 336-245-5655.**

Come Join the Red Cross Blood Drive!

Hosted by AAA Committee

During the past two years, our local and nationwide Red Cross donations has been at an all-time low. 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 save a life?

When: April 13, 2022

Where: Tad's Room

Time: 10:00am-2:30pm.

Manufacturing and optical contact your supervisor to set up an appointment to donate.

Admin contact Anastasia Powell at: APowell@ifbsolutions.org or Shonn Redmond at: SRedmond@ifbsolutions.org

All participants will receive a Red Cross T-Shirt and ice cream coupon for Mike's cafeteria.

Thank you for all your support!

Winston-Salem Employees:

The new owners of the Soccer plex building will be doing a major landscaping project on Tuesday, March 15th and Wednesday, March 16th. Please remember parking is not available in this area for IFB employees. 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. IFB employees may still choose to wear masks and face shields while on our campus, and we ask that you respect the individual choices of those who continue. Visitors to IFB Solutions are not required to wear a mask.

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.

Important notes:

- Per federal law, masks are still required on public transportation, including city buses and Trans Aid.**

- **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.**

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

Programs and Services

Winston-Salem Employees:

WFU Medical interns are hosting two focus groups, Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23 from 12:00-1:00 in TADS room. The groups will discuss the barriers and challenges people who are blind or visually impaired face obtaining medical resources and services. Lunch will be provided. If interested contact Chris Flynt at 336-245-5620.

See What S.E.E. is Doing!

S.E.E. After School Winston learned about the function of the human heart during the month of February. The S.E.E. kids each played a part in acting out blood going into the heart, picking up oxygen, and leaving the heart to take it to the rest of the body. A ball is passed from one S.E.E. kid to another to represent the blood through the 4 chambers of the heart. A balloon is blown up to show when oxygen enters the blood from the lungs. The full balloon is passed along with the ball and then deflated as the oxygen is released in the bloodstream throughout the body. The ball and flat balloon return to the heart to start the system over again. Six S.E.E. kids participated in this video activity.

Check it out: <https://vimeo.com/687177901/d6cd1a5d35>

Winston-Salem Braille class update:

Braille classes will be changing times on Tuesday and Thursday to 11:00 - 11:30 AM beginning March 15 and March 17 in Tad's room instead of 2:00 – 2:30 PM. Be there at 11 on the dot!

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 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!

Attention All:

This month, the Assistive Technology support group will discuss the new Apple releases coming soon, along with a new version of JAWS, and much more.

Also, I want to remind anyone that would like to view previous meetings or view some of the quick tutorials to subscribe to our YouTube channel. The direct link is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa1EnY0F9u4W0azPsS96bfA>

We would love to have you join our channel as we continue to build a library of helpful information designed to help you. Have a question or a suggestion for the channel, send us an email at athotcorner@gmail.com

Adult Support Group Meetings:

- **Tuesday, March 15 VIPS Club meeting from 12:00-1:00 in TADS Room.**
- **Wednesday, March 16 Diabetic support group meeting from 12:00-12:45 in TADS Room.**
- **Thursday, March 17 Assistive Technology support group meeting from 7:00-8:00 via Zoom (please see special zoom link for this meeting at the end of the newsletter).**
- **Saturday, March 19 NFB meeting from 3:00-4:00 via Zoom.**

Community Low Vision Center

CLVC Item of the Week:

Aluminum Braille Clothing Labels | Price: \$19.95

These aluminum tags are off white in color, and they measure 1/2 inch high and 1 inch wide. Each tag has the color name in black print and in braille and there is a single hole at each end of the tag allowing them to be held to clothing with a safety pin or sewn on. Washable labels come as 100 tabs to a set in an assortment of popular colors.

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

Assistive Technology: Split Sound on Jaws 2022

In these days of multiple virtual meetings, taking notes, and multitasking for blind users, a feature called Split Sound is demonstrated along with how to control Jaws and system sound levels. Demonstration works best listening through headphones. Video: [Using jaws to Control Sound](#)

How Close Are We to Curing Blindness?

The state of bionic eyes, gene therapies, and other advanced treatments: <https://www.freethink.com/health/curing-blindness>

LEGO Braille Bricks Help Blind Children Learn to Read

LEGO is rolling out a new toy to increase literacy in blind and partially sighted children: Braille Bricks. More than just a construction game, each of these colorful blocks is molded into a letter, number, or punctuation mark of the braille writing system.

“Braille literacy has declined as technologies like audio books and screen-readers, which recite the text displayed on a computer or smartphone screen, have become more common. Advocates, though, say that auditory reading methods like these should complement braille, not replace it. The only other real option for someone without sight is to listen, and by listening you lose a lot of spelling, grammar, and punctuation.” Read the entire article at: [Lego Braille Bricks to Help Blind Children Learn](#)

Keybuild (iOS/pads, \$3.99)

Build your own keyboard! Touchscreen keyboards don't need to be one-size-fits-all, so let's change that! With Keybuild, you choose the layout, the keys, everything. Keys can be set up to type whatever you want! Letters, Greek letters (α , β , γ), math symbols (π , \int , Σ), arrows ($\uparrow\rightarrow\downarrow\leftarrow$), or even your favorite emoji can be added and organized depending on your needs. Create multiple 'panes', each containing keys arranged using a stack-based layout, and switch between them with either an automatic menu, or direct links. Add a small number row to your Qwerty keyboard or have a try using Azerty or Colemak layouts. Build a keyboard that can keep up with you! VO users refer to the AppleVis link for more information.

Current Version: 1.6.1 (February 18, 2022)

[Read Keybuild's AppleVis App Directory entry for more information](#)

[Visit Keybuild's App Store page](#)

See also: [Keybuild's Voice-over-focused update is open for testing](#)

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

[The Guild for Human Services will host an online premiere for The World Got Smaller: The Spirit of The Guild During COVID-19 on March 16.](#) The short film provides a first-hand look at how the pandemic curtailed the community life of individuals with intellectual disabilities through the eyes of staff, students, residents, parents, and community partners.

[VIEW THE TRAILER AND REGISTER >](#)

The Spirit of Harriet Tubman

Have a taste for high quality southern comfort cuisine and a show? The spirit of Harriet Tubman will be performing on March 20th at 3pm at the taste of the Triad. Anyone interested, contact the taste of the Triad.

4320 Old Walkertown Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

<https://www.tasteofthetriad.com/>

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.

Opportunities

IFB's Computer Training Program has been revamped and will be kicking off soon for blind/visually impaired employees to apply.

This program will be instructed by Chris Flynt and will offer sessions/trainings on Microsoft Office, Keyboarding, and ZoomText/JAWS, just to name a few. We will open for applicants via the ticketing system starting March 21st and 2 qualified employees will be chosen to begin the first scheduled sessions. If you have any questions, please reach out to Brenda Livingston at extension 5694.

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>

IMPORTANT HR UPDATE:

Please note that Haleigh Yarboro has changed offices. She is now located on the hall off 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.

Development Support Professional- Winston Salem

Education and work experience:

- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- 5 years of related office administration experience or combination of education, experience and training required.
- A working knowledge of donor management databases, such as Raisers Edge, preferred

External candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/3CE5BUO>

Internal candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/3J64uQ2>

Customer Services Associate- Denny's

Education and work experience:

- High school diploma or equivalent. Some college preferred.
- 1-3 years of recent experience in a Customer Service support role (Call Center experience preferred). Computer experience is required along with an acceptable WPM of at least 30.

Internal candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/3MC6UIp>

External candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/3pXzgmD>

Customer Service Representative- CSC

Education and work experience:

- **High School Diploma or GED equivalent**
- **Two years of customer service experience preferred.**
- **If applicable, demonstrated proficiency in use of Assistive Technology required with either JAWS and/or Zoom Text for visual adaptation. Bilingual Spanish-English capability a plus.**

Internal candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/3pXmtkh>

External candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/36exNkZ>

AP Specialist- Winston Salem

Education and work experience:

- **4-year Accounting Degree preferred, or equivalent 4-5 years of comparable Accounts Payable experience required**

Internal candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/3vV1J0d>

External candidates may apply at: <https://bit.ly/3MKPeuf>

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

Assistive Technology Meeting: Zoom Info

<https://ifbsolutions.zoom.us/j/94434630872?pwd=aXFYSHYyWkh1SE1tWdNOdDIwVURwUT09>

Meeting ID: 944 3463 0872

Passcode: 924496

Adult Support Group: Zoom Info:

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

Meeting ID: 994 9807 8576

PASSWORD: 92638

One tap mobile

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+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