

# Your Support

**Creates Life-Changing Opportunities for People who are Blind or Visually Impaired**

**IFBSolutions**



**Top: Winston-Salem employee Lynn Drake enjoys play time with her guide dog Kenny.**

**Above: SEE pottery instructor Mary Gunyuzlu works with Elisha at the pottery wheel.**

**Right: Chad Wilbur is the first blind employee to operate the digital cutter in Asheville.**

Your gift helps us to....

# Expand our Community Low Vision Center Services

In the last five years, we've expanded our Community Low Vision Centers (CLVC) to four locations and added a Mobile Vision Center to put our services on the road. Each year, our low vision associates help hundreds of adults and children with low vision. For many, the support they receive at an IFB CLVC is life changing.

CLVC services include:

- Low Vision Evaluations
- Low Vision Resources
- Resource Center for Low Vision Aids
- Focus on Literacy
- Recycle for Sight



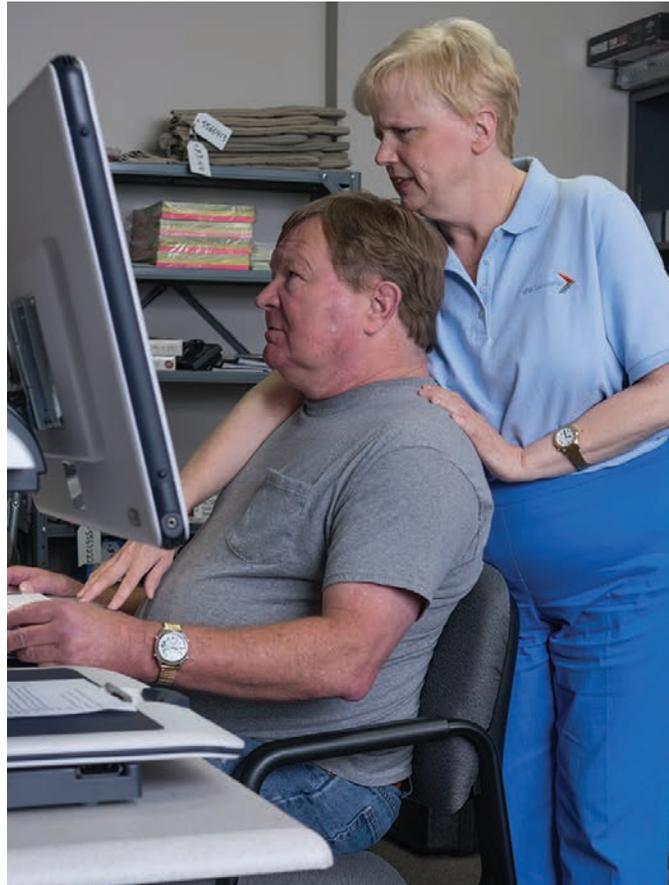
## Miracle Brown: Aptly Named

Weighing just 1.5 pounds, Miracle was given a 50-50 chance of surviving her first two weeks. The birth was difficult, and her mother was put in a medically-induced coma. Both survived and thrived. As her father sat at the hospital, a woman in the waiting area encouraged him to name her *Miracle*.



Above: Through our Focus on Literacy program, students receive assistive technology free of charge for use at home to complete school work. In Winston-Salem, Low Vision Associate Shonn Redmond guides Khloe through using a CCTV.

Right: Little Rock opened its CLVC in the fall of 2017. Low Vision Associate Toni Fraser shows IFB employee Carl Corbett how to use the Enhanced Vision ClearView with Speech machine.





**Miracle Brown  
with her parents  
Ernest and Melissa**

# Grow Participation in our Student Enrichment Experience

The SEE program was founded by an IFB employee as an avenue for school children who are blind or visually impaired to grow their independence and spread their wings. What started as a small group housed in one meeting space has evolved into a year-round curriculum of after-school opportunities, summer camps and special friendships. Children who came to SEE hesitant or shy are blossoming and telling exuberant tales of ziplines and waterskiing.



**Our First SEE Participant** ➤

Miracle first connected with IFB to visit a low vision doctor at the CLVC. While she was there, her family was told about a start-up program called SEE specifically designed for students K-12. Miracle became the very first SEE participant.



The SEE program provides a year-round calendar of educational, social and recreational activities for children who are blind from art classes to music lessons to summer camps.





# Create Careers through Training and Upward Mobility

At IFB, we emphasize that no experience is necessary to get a job. We provide all the training and support needed to be successful in our organization. It's important because for many of our employees, IFB is their first job.

We also provide training in life skills such as computer instruction and public speaking for employees and the community.

This support underscores our belief that all people who are blind or visually impaired have the right to succeed in every area of life.



## From SEE to Employee

During Miracle's high school years, she began a work-study program at IFB to develop skills and eventually enter the workforce.



Above: Sewing operator E.J. Ford works with Tammy Watson on the new EWOL project.



Top right: IFB optical customer service representative Demarrious Bowens leads a study session for colleagues wanting to earn American Board of Opticianry certification.



Right: IFB Workforce Services employee Mike Mote provides technical support to IFB employees working in remote customer locations.

# Change Lives by Building Employment Opportunities

IFB Solutions is the largest employer of people who are blind or visually impaired in the country. Our community faces a daunting 70 percent unemployment rate, so it's critical we continue to grow job opportunities across our organization.

For many of our employees, a job with IFB is life-changing. It's often their first opportunity for personal and financial independence. We also are very proud to employ many military veterans. Working at IFB creates a special bond that encourages everyone to give and achieve their best.



## Miracle Brown from CLVC to Employee

Today, Miracle is a smiling 25-year-old young woman who gained additional training to join our RABU team as a sewing machine operator. She's also a special mentor to our SEE participants.



Above: Army veteran and IFB employee David Walker produces staples in our Winston-Salem facility.

Top right: A 32-year veteran of IFB, Margaret Ruffin ensures a smooth operation as manager of the paper department in Little Rock.

Right: Asheville employees Amber Bryant and Jamie Henderson became friends working on the stapler line.



Change a life,  
make your gift  
today!



Thank you for your support!



**Express yourself!** Miracle loves to express her individuality with new nail polishes. She and her mom schedule regular "girl time" manicures.



**IFB Solutions is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission of providing opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired in need of training, employment and services.**

**93% of every dollar donated directly supports our programs and services.**

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