

W-S Industries for the Blind honors employees and volunteers and recognizes years of service

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind (IFB) recently honored its employees and volunteers for their commitment to helping IFB provide jobs, training and services for people who are blind or visually impaired. In addition to recognizing five individuals with organization-wide awards, IFB celebrated numerous service milestones. Twenty-seven employees received service awards for 15, 20 and 25 years, and 33 employees were recognized for 10 years of service. IFB, with manufacturing facilities in Winston-Salem, Asheville and Little Rock, Ark., is the nation's largest employer of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Rick Gaefe of Kernersville was named IFB Employee of the Year. After having served in the U.S. Army, Gaefe began losing vision and became homebound for 12 years. He then moved to Winston-Salem to be closer to family, where he learned of Industries for the Blind.



Mintz



Carey



Morales



Gaefe



Jolly

He joined IFB in 2005 and has worked in a variety of departments, including serving as IFB's first Assistive Technology Instructor to help others learn valuable computer and technology skills. Recognized as a mentor by many employees, Gaefe is always looking to make a difference. He sits on the IFB Safety and Guide Dog committees in addition to being a member of the IFB Blind Veterans Support Group and the Guide Dogs Support Group.

Pablo Morales of Lewisville was awarded the IFB Career Achiever Award. As IFB's Training/Accessibility Coordinator, he supports all employees in building their computer skills and

taking advantage of the latest assistive technology tools. Since taking on this role in 2015, Morales has helped 82 IFB employees complete a specially-designed curriculum that he developed covering unique assistive tools such as screen reading software and smart devices. A native of Venezuela, Morales earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and began working at IFB in 2004.

Tina Jolly of Roaring River received the IFB Delmer Wall Outstanding Service Award. Jolly is a Supervisor for IFB's Scissors, Military Resale and Markers Departments in the Winston-Salem facility. Jolly is known for the

special care she takes with every new employee to ensure that person feels welcome and comfortable. An IFB employee for 12 years, she values the importance of building community and camaraderie, especially for people who have not had an opportunity to work prior to joining IFB. According to National Industries for the Blind, more than 70 percent of working-age Americans who are blind are not employed.

Jerry Mintz of Winston-Salem received the Kathryn W. Garner Volunteer of the Year Award for his leadership with the Forsyth Blind Bowlers. His tenure with the organization spans an astonishing 36 years, and

he has worked tirelessly to help the group evolve from a small core to a strong team of more than 30 individuals who are blind. In addition to serving as the team secretary, Mintz coordinates all team transportation to both practices and tournaments and manages the necessary equipment such as the rails that make the game accessible for people who are blind. Mintz is statewide advocate for blind bowling as an active member of the Carolina Blind Bowling Association and the American Blind Bowlers Association. He was instrumental in establishing a statewide blind bowling tournament, sponsored by IFB, and works with other communities to create their

own blind bowling teams.

Karen Carey of Winston-Salem received the IFB Commodore Funderburk Visionary Award. A retired attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, Carey's service to IFB over the course of more than 11 years has come in many forms. She served as a member, and later chair, of the IFB Board of Directors, a board member of IFB's supporting A Brighter Path Foundation, and a volunteer with Tracy's Little Red Schoolhouse and the SEE (Student Enrichment Experience) program. In addition, she trains guide dogs on behalf of the Southeastern Guide Dog Association, and has brought her dogs for classroom visits and the annual SEE Summer Camps. During her board service, Carey was instrumental in assisting IFB with the acquisition and integration of The Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind completed in 2013.

Winston-Salem Foundation announces community grants

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Foundation has announced 14 Community Grants totaling \$384,178 that will touch the lives of many living in Forsyth County. Grants were awarded to organizations in the following program areas: animal welfare, arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environment, health, human services, public interest, and youth.

*Common Cause North Carolina -

\$15,750 for a nonpartisan voter guide

*El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services - \$5,145 for technology upgrades and board training

*Family Services - \$27,300 for the Family Violence Prevention Initiative

*Family Success Collaborative - \$100,800 for two family advocates in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood

*Forsyth County Public Library - \$52,500 to create a reading garden at the new Central Library

*Heartstrings, Inc. - \$31,083 to diversify the pregnancy and infant loss program and to expand the executive director position

*NC Cooperative Extension Service, Forsyth County - \$1,000 for the urban farm school

*Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods - \$80,000 to support the development of community assets in neighborhoods

*Planned Parenthood South Atlantic - \$26,250 for a community health educator

*R.I.S.E. 4 Girls - \$300 to host workshops to empower school age girls

*ReadWS - \$8,400 to expand the assistant director's hours for a second year

*Sergei Foundation - \$10,500 for a part-time program manager

*Twin City Stage - \$24,150 for an operational and programmatic evaluation process

*Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts - \$1,000 to host a finale event for a Haitian art exhibit.



**THE CHRONICLE
DIXIE CLASSIC FAIR**

Gospel Fest

Sundays

**October 2nd & October 9th
3:00 pm-6:00 pm**



Submission Guidelines

1. Submit a 5-7 minute DVD (not CD) of the gospel group singing the song(s) of choice. If you are chosen, then you will sing the same song(s) as submitted. Please do not exceed the time limit.
2. Be sure to write the group's name, contact name, contact number, pastor & church's name (if applicable).
3. Bring all DVD submissions, direct all inquiries, or mail to:



The Chronicle / Gospel Fest
ATTN: Debra Terry
617 N. Liberty Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(336) 722-8624 ext. 116



4. **Deadline: All submissions must be postmarked by Friday, September 2, 2016.** DVD submissions may not be returned and may remain property of The Chronicle Newspaper.