Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.

*Independence Through Employment*

**Items Manufactured**

- **CLOTH MAILING BAGS**
  General Services Administration
- **CLOTH CANTEEN COVER**
  General Services Administration
- **EMBROIDERED NAMETAPES**
  Defense Supply Center Philadelphia
  United States Air Force
- **MAINTENANCE MANUAL CASES**
  General Services Administration
- **SKID BOARDS**
  United States Army
- **SMALL ARMS CLEANING SWABS**
  Defense Supply Center Columbus
- **POSTAL SERVICE CENTER - SJAFB**
  United States Air Force
- **COMMERCIAL SEWING**
- **CUSTOM SCREEN-PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY**

**Now offering LIONS CLUB apparel!**

Feel free to contact us for more information about our products and services.

Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.

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Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.

Employing Eastern North Carolina’s Blind & Visually Impaired Since 1971

Providing employment opportunities for non-sighted persons in a work setting that affords both income and dignity to the individual, with no compromise on the quality of the product.
Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.

**LIB Chain of Events**

1969  Charter Issued.
1971  Began operations on East Street as “Eastern Carolina Industries for the Blind, Inc.”
1975  Name was changed to “Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.” and moved to larger building at 500 East Lenoir Ave. Manufactured pallets and did sub-contract work.
1976  Began affiliation with National Industries for the Blind, and became eligible for orders from the Federal Government.
1979  Gun Swabs for small arms was assigned by National Industries for the Blind.
1980  First Gun Swab shipment was made to Government Supply Depots.
1981  Moved to newer facility at 2600 West Vernon Avenue.
1984  Completed small renovation project of closing in and air conditioning the plant.
1986  Completed major expansion to facilities; added 4100 square feet of production and administrative space.
1987  Made the first shipment of Maintenance Manual Cases to the government.
1988  Acrylic Scarf transferred to LIB from the Lighthouse for the Blind in New Orleans.
1989  Made the first shipment of Scarves to the government.
1990  The Infant Diaper was assigned to the industry in February. The first Diaper shipment was made in June.
1991  USMC Name and Service Tapes were assigned to LIB in November.
1992  First shipment of Name and Service Tapes was made in April.
1995  Started manufacturing Mailing Bags in June with the first shipment being made in September.
1999  Approval for the manufacturing of Skid Boards.
2000  1st shipment of Skid Boards leaves facility.
2002  Started Custom Screen-Printing and Embroidery. Moved to newer facility at 4126 Berkeley Avenue.
2004  Started Manufacturing Cloth Canteen Covers.

**History of LIB**

In the late 1960’s, the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind approached the Kinston Host Lions Club to establish a facility to serve the area’s blind and visually handicapped. After two years of study by the Host and the Ram Neuse Clubs, a charter was issued and in April, 1971, “Eastern Carolina Industries for the Blind, Inc.” was established on East Street in Kinston. The ultimate goal was, and remains, to provide employment for the blind and visually impaired in a setting that affords both income and dignity to the individual, with no compromise on the quality of production. In 1975 the operation was moved to a larger facility on East Lenoir Avenue and the charter amended to officially change the name to “Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.” (LIB). In 1976, LIB became a project of the entire Lions District and also became associated with National Industries for the Blind, a non-profit agency through which all government work is assigned to affiliated agencies. In April, 1981, the operation was moved to West Vernon Avenue. The facilities at 2600 West Vernon were expanded in 1986 to provide 13,700 square feet for operations. In October 2002, LIB moved to its present location at 4126 Berkeley Avenue.

The move to Berkeley Avenue increased the space for LIB to carry out its operation to 40,500 square feet. Through the hard work and cooperation of our Board of Directors, many Lions Club Members, and its employees, LIB has achieved a reputation for providing viable jobs to blind and visually impaired citizens of Eastern North Carolina. Most of our products are sold to the Federal Government under the Javits-Wagner-O’Day Act. This Act requires us to meet competitive quality and price standards…and we have. Our success has allowed expansion of employment opportunities and facilities offered to the blind and visually impaired. We have also been able to provide employment for those with other serious disabilities such as deafness, retardation, diabetes, and orthopedic problems. LIB will continue to offer its clients the employment opportunities and experience they need to take their place as a productive member of society. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the N.C. Division of services for the Blind, National Industries for the Blind, the AbilityOne Program, and to our Board of Directors and members of the Kinston Host and Ram Neuse Lions Clubs for making the work done at LIB possible.