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**VISIONCORPS EXPANDS EMPLOYMENT FOR
PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND IN LITTLE ROCK**

LANCASTER, Penna. (Oct. 2, 2023) — VisionCorps, a nonprofit with a mission to empower individuals with vision loss to attain independence, has acquired a notebook manufacturing business line and its real estate in Little Rock, Ark. VisionCorps began operations at the Little Rock facility on Oct. 2.

The expansion of VisionCorps' manufacturing operation is part of its strategic plan to increase employment opportunities for individuals who are blind, said Dennis Steiner, VisionCorps president and CEO.

"We are excited to join the Little Rock community as an employer of people who are blind or vision impaired," said Steiner. "Establishing a manufacturing footprint in Little Rock will give us exciting growth opportunities as we look to expand our packaging and distribution operations."

VisionCorps plans to bring two more lines of production to the Little Rock facility in the coming year.

By the end of 2023, a second line will be added to prepare cartridges for formatting for audio books for the National Library Service (NLS). This will be an expansion of VisionCorps' current contract with NLS, which operates in its York, Pa. facility. In the spring of 2024, a third line will be added to package rice for the U.S. military. This contract is currently fulfilled in Lebanon, Pa. The new Arkansas location, in the U.S. rice belt, is close to key rice suppliers and will allow for more efficient operations. VisionCorps expects to employ 50 individuals, the majority of them blind, in the first year of operation.

VisionCorps is a member agency of National Industries for the Blind (NIB), the largest employer of people who are blind in the country. NIB connects VisionCorps and similar agencies with manufacturing and contract opportunities for the federal government under the AbilityOne program.

"Although national unemployment rates are very low, this is not the case for people with disabilities. Nationwide, approximately 70 percent of working-age adults who are blind are not employed, and the jobless rate for those with a disability is about twice as high as the rate for

people without one. NIB is working to change those statistics and reduce that unemployment rate by creating opportunities for people who are blind to become wage earners and taxpayers, reducing reliance on government support and increasing engagement with their communities” said Kevin Lynch, NIB president and CEO.

”We are excited to work with VisionCorps to grow opportunities for employment for residents living with vision loss in Little Rock,” said Lynch.

ABOUT VISIONCORPS

[VisionCorps](#) is a nonprofit with the mission of empowering people who are blind or vision impaired to attain independence by providing them with employment, tools, and training. VisionCorps provides rehabilitation and prevention services in a five-county service region in Pennsylvania.

For more than 95 years, VisionCorps has been producing quality products in partnership with the government and commercial sectors. VisionCorps is part of a national consortium of nonprofits who work with the National Industries for the Blind to employ people who are blind and vision-impaired under the AbilityOne Program.

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