

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Thank you for your enduring support of Plano Child Development Center! With support of our 2010 benefit co-chair, **Natalie Ray**, the benefit committee, the Plano Board, and staff, we are able to successfully execute Plano's mission.

It is with great appreciation that we had as Honorary Chair and founder's Award Recipient one of our early supporter's **Bishop Arthur Brazier**, Pastor Emeritus of the Apostolic Church of God. The Plano family extends its sympathy to the family in the passing of Bishop Arthur Brazier this past November, 2010. We are proud of our 2010 Award Recipients: Humanitarian Award, **Rev. Clay Evans**; and Community Service Award, **Dr. Conrad Worrill**. Our 2010 Most Outstanding Vision Therapy Progress Awardees: **Jasmine Voss**, **Dominique Jones**, **Brian Hermsillo** and **Wayne Wheat, Jr.** are truly the apple of our eyes.

Plano continued its relationship with the Children's Home and Aid, Englewood Child and Family Center and the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community as participants on committees and as service providers. We have begun a similar relationship with Catholic Charities Head Start of Chicago.

We are proud of Dr. Stephanie's recent participation on a panel on understanding the Southside Health Care Market as part of the University of Chicago's Urban Health Initiative and South Side Community Health and Vitality Studies.

Thank you for your encouragement as we continue to work toward making Plano's future brighter. Please join us October 7th, 2011 at our Annual Vision Care Benefit.

Dr. Henry Moore, Co-Founder
Mr. Albert Pritchett, Chair Mrs. Linda Ford, Vice Chair



DR. ROBERT L. JOHNSON, CO-FOUNDER AND ROBERT JOHNSON, JR. – PLANO BENEFIT 2010

PLANO'S MISSION STATEMENT:

Founded in 1959 by Dr. Robert L. Johnson and Dr. Henry R. Moore, the mission of Plano, which includes vision education awareness, is to effectively identify, evaluate and treat educationally-disadvantaged children who have an under-developed and/or inefficient vision information processing skills. Plano is a multi-disciplinary, not-for-profit optometric service organization providing comprehensive vision and vision-perception care, and whose aim is to assess and treat visual deficiencies in at-risk individuals on an ability-to-pay fee basis.

2010 CORPORATE DONORS, FOUNDATIONS, GRANTS AND CONTRACTS:

Our Deepest Thanks to the Following Organizations for Their Continued Support of Plano

A.A. Rayner & Sons Funeral Home
AKArama Foundation, Incorporated
Alpha Temple Missionary Baptist Church
American Optometric Association
American Vision Center – Evergreen
Baldwin Richardson Foods
Bernell Vision Training Products, Inc.
Carol Fitzgerald Memorial Fund
Chicago Heart & Vascular Consultants, Inc.
Ciba Vision
Complete Vision Care
Coopervision
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Saint John Church – Baptist – Mission Fund
Seaway Bank & Trust Co.
Standard Bank & Trust
Tropical Optical
Vision First, Inc.
Vision Health management Systems, Inc.
Xavier University Chicago Alumni Association

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR. ROBERT L. JOHNSON, SR. (1930 – 2010) PLANO CO-FOUNDER!

Dr. Robert L. Johnson, Sr., was a man of vision in many ways. Born in Helena, Arkansas, he was one of five children who became an outstanding high school basketball player, and attended Xavier University on a football scholarship. While at Xavier, he met and married Mercedes Sylvest, and together they became the parents of six children.

After college, Dr. Johnson served in one of the military's first integrated companies where he received guided missile training and served in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division. During his service as a combat medic, he received many awards including a Purple Heart. Upon leaving the army, he became a supervisor at Chicago's main post office. He received his Master of Science degree from the University of Chicago in 1954, and graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) in 1960.

With his partner, Dr. Henry Moore, Dr. Johnson founded Plano Child Development Center, a not-for-profit vision service organization, which offers comprehensive vision testing and therapy treatment intervention to Chicago area patients. Since 1959, Plano has provided low cost vision services to thousands of children and adults. Dr. Johnson was a pioneer in the field of vision therapy, resulting in remarkable improvements in school achievement and behavior for many children in the greater Chicago area. He continued at Plano until his demise, where he was joined in practice by his daughter, Dr. Stephanie Johnson-Brown and Dr. Joseph McCray. He was also the founder and President of Vision Health Management Systems, Inc., a preferred provider administrator which provides consultant services, prepaid vision and management services.

In 1977, Dr. Johnson received the G. N. Getman Award from the College of Vision Development for his role in bringing behavioral vision services to Chicago's disadvantaged children. In 1978, he was named National Optometric Association's optometrist of the year and in 1983 he received ICO's Alumni of the Year award.

Dr. Johnson was the first Black man to receive a fellowship in the College of Vision Development. He was a consultant for "Project Healthy" which evaluated the effectiveness of the Headstart Program, served as a consultant for the U.S. Postal Service to establish vision standards for certain job categories and founded a school for optometric technicians, which graduated some of the first minority technicians with associate degrees.

He served as chairman of the trustee board at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Chicago, where he was a faithful member for many years.

Dr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Mercedes, daughters, Valerie, Stephanie, Kimberly, Paula; son Robert Jr., ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His daughter, Carol Johnson Fitzgerald, preceded him in death.

He will be remembered for decades to come for his service; his dedication; the strength of his faith and for his belief that Optometric Vision Therapy can have a profoundly positive effect on a child's future. For additional information about this remarkable man and community leader, view this video: <http://bit.ly/gHySU6>.



DR. ROBERT L. JOHNSON



PLANO FOUNDERS DR. JOHNSON
AND DR. MOORE

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**2010 OUTSTANDING VISION
THERAPY AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Last year Plano provided in-office vision testing and vision therapy to nearly 200 patients. Although Plano's customary fee for vision therapy is significantly less than average, we were able to provide about 30 percent of our patients with a sliding fee scale. As a result of the funding from Healthcare and Family Services, Plano was able to provide vision therapy services to kid care and Medicaid patients. Plano provided on-site vision evaluation services to 138 preschoolers and kindergarteners from various early childhood sites and vision screening for nearly 138 participants evaluated at various health fairs. Community service vision awareness workshops were provided to over 350 persons, many of whom viewed Plano's story on DVD. These workshops were provided for two new agencies, Easter Seals Early Childhood Centers of Chicago and Catholic Charities Headstart of Chicago.

Corporate and foundation support for Plano's "Eye Can Learn" comprehensive vision program grant is needed. Individuals can also assist through participation in the June P. Elzia Vision Therapy Scholarship Fund. The Carol Fitzgerald Memorial Fund continued its support of this program.

Plano continued primary vision exam services to the Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Centers, which were part of our previous vision exam programs. Plano completed a similar program with selected City of Chicago Colleges Early Childhood Centers. With 74% of the 74 children who were given primary exams needing follow up vision care, vision health care evaluation should be an integral part of health care for the children.

Of the 30% of the students needing glasses, 45% of the prescriptions were significant enough to wear constantly. Of the functional problems seen, only 17% were amblyopic or strabismic, so the majority were deficits in eye movement control, eye teaming skills, eye-hand coordination, and visual processing and integration skills. Of the students receiving follow up services, 46% needed vision therapy testing assessments and about 85% received these services. Of these, most were diagnosed with visual skill deficits that could be improved with vision therapy intervention.

This significant increase in follow up was primarily the result of Plano conducting the vision assessments at the sites or at Plano. Fortunately 40% of these children received vision therapy intervention since an enhancement vision therapy program was provided at 1 of the sites. These findings support the need to continue and expand this program with emphasis on parent follow up resulting in more children receiving vision therapy treatment services.

With our increase in vision education information workshops and with the passage of the Illinois Children's Vision Law, the number of children entering kindergarten or starting school for the first time receiving complete eye and vision examinations at Plano increased significantly. Last year, by subsidizing wages, the "Put Illinois To Work" program has enabled Plano to train 4 employees to work as vision care assistants. This has enabled Plano to increase quantity as well as quality of our care.

Plano continued to be recognized last year for its role in providing vision therapy to Larry Fitzgerald, wide receiver for the Arizona Cardinals and 2009 Pro-Bowl MVP; while he was in elementary school. This past August, Larry, grandson of Plano's Co-Founder Dr. Robert L. Johnson, once again led the kick off for the College of Vision Development (COVD) Children's Vision and Learning month campaign. In support of Plano and COVD, Fitzgerald has autographed 50 of his photographs mounted on plaques with proceeds from the sell being given to Plano and COVD. Only a few of these plaques are available from COVD.org.

Dr. Stephanie Johnson-Brown

PLANO NEWS!

- 🌀 **Vision Education Workshops** are held periodically throughout the year. Call us or go online at www.planovision.org and find out how you can attend or schedule a workshop.
- 🌀 **Plano received two Grants:** The Healthy Eyes Healthy People Grant (HEHP) sponsored by: Optometry Cares, The AOA Foundation, American Optometric Association and Luxottica, Inc. and the Carol Fitzgerald Memorial Fund Grant (CFMF) were received in support of Plano's "Eye Can Learn Comprehensive Vision Program".
- 🌀 **Plano's Volunteer Program:** Plano supervised pre-optometry intern Brelynn Schloo this past semester, as part of her volunteer experience in Chicago. She was able to observe and learn from her experience as part of her Chicago Center for Urban Life and Culture program.
- 🌀 **Are We A Match?** As a registered 501 (c) (3) corporation, Plano is eligible for many corporate matching grant programs. Check with your employee benefits department and see if we're a match.
- 🌀 Please support **Plano's Annual Sweetheart Volunteers Summer Raffle**, which will be held on August 13th, 2011 at Plano.
- 🌀 Plano successfully participated in **Carson's Community Day Fundraiser** which was held on Saturday, February 27th, 2011.
- 🌀 **Plano continues to participate in InfantSEE.** If your infant is six months to twelve months old, please schedule a comprehensive eye exam at no cost to you.

PLANO CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609

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www.planovision.org

In memory of Dr. Robert L. Johnson,
Please Support
Plano's 36th Annual Vision Care Benefit
Friday, October 7th, 2011
At
The Condessa Del Mar
12220 South Cicero Avenue, Alsip, Illinois



Board Member Cheribelle Byrd and the 2010
Community Service Award Recipient Dr. Conrad Worrill

Plano Board of Directors:

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Dr. Henry R. Moore, Treasurer and Co-Founder
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