

# PLANO CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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## *Save the Date*

Please join us as we  
celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of our  
charter  
**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Vision  
Care Benefit**

**Friday, October  
9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

For more Information  
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## NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2015

[www.planovision.org](http://www.planovision.org)

### **PLANO'S MISSION Continues After 50 years as a Not-for-Profit Organization**

Founded in 1959 and chartered in 1965 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.



**Plano's Most Outstanding Vision Therapy Progress  
Awardees, Parents and Plano staff**

# NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

Page 1 of 2

## GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you for your enduring support of Plano Child Development Center! With support of our 2014 event co chairs, Rev. Dr. Michael Burnside and Natalie Ray, the benefit committee, the Plano Board, staff we were able to successfully execute Plano's mission. It is with great appreciation that the Honorable Congresswoman **Robin Kelly** served as our Honorary Chair. We are proud of our 2014 Founders' Award recipient, **The Honorable Timothy C. Evans** and our Community Service Award recipient, **Dr. Stephanie A. Whyte**. We congratulate our Most Outstanding Vision Therapy Progress Awardees: **Desmond Berdell, Alexis Dillon, Manuel Avalos, Randy Gutierrez, Zyla Snapp and Justin Jones**. We were honored to recognize our late Co-Founder **Dr. Henry R. Moore** with our Life Time Vision Award.

## Plano News

Last year, Plano provided in-office vision testing and vision therapy to nearly 250 patients. Although Plano's customary fee for vision therapy is significantly less than average, we were able to provide services to about 14% of our patients on a sliding fee scale. As a result of funding from Healthcare and Family Services, 85% of our patients received vision therapy services through Kidcare and Medicaid. Our participation as a community partner with Communities in Schools resulted in an increase in students receiving vision exams. Of the students served, many received VSP's Sight for Student Exam vouchers. Plano provided comprehensive vision exams to nearly 300 students from Chicago and the Harvey School District 152. Approximately four Hundred (400) participants, at thirteen health fairs, received vision screenings. Community service vision awareness workshops were provided to over 300 persons, many of whom viewed Plano's story on DVD. A segment on Plano's services featured on WGN's "Chicago's Very Own" can now be viewed on Plano's website: [www.planovision.org](http://www.planovision.org).

This past school year, our affiliated corporation, VHMS, provided services as a subcontractor to Tropical Optical and provided comprehensive vision exams to nearly 40,000 Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> graders at 23 selected Chicago Public Schools. 81% of the schools participated in this program.

Plano also received contributions from the Larry Fitzgerald First Down Fund and the Carol Fitzgerald Memorial Fund Grant (CFMF) in support of Plano's "Eye Can Learn Comprehensive Vision Program"; more corporate and foundation support is needed. Individuals can also assist through participation in the June P. Elzia Vision Therapy Scholarship Fund and as a patient; you can contribute to the Plano (PCP) raffles, which have been successful.

We are grateful for the support of the Essilor of Americas Foundation and Modern Optical in providing lenses and frames to students who needed glasses but were unable to afford it.



Plano will honor Mrs. Mercedes Johnson (wife of our co-founder, the late Dr. Robert L. Johnson) for her service to Plano for over 50 years.

## Plano Continues to Mentor

Lucy E. Kehinde,  
Ph.D., O.D.



My family fully supported my dreams of becoming a research scientist, eye doctor and teacher. After three years in Birmingham, I earned my Ph.D. in Vision Sciences in 2009. In 2012, as an optometry student at University of Alabama at Birmingham, I came to Chicago as an extern to learn more about vision therapy and pediatric optometry. During my three months in Chicago, I learned more at Plano than I could have imagined. Aside from learning how to better identify, evaluate and treat vision-related problems, Dr. Stephanie sent me out into the surrounding community to participate in health fairs and educate minority populations in schools, church groups and community centers about the importance of annual eye exams. She connected me with optometrists in different modes of practice so that I could gain first-hand exposure into various career options as an eye care provider. Knowing that I have always been interested in academia, she also arranged for me to meet the faculty and tour the Illinois College of Optometry. Today, I am living my dream as a therapeutic optometrist at Alpha Eyecare Associates in Houston, Texas and I recently accepted a position as Assistant Clinical Professor at University of Houston College of Optometry where I will be teaching future optometrists. During my time there, I plan to use my Ph.D. to conduct clinical research aimed at early detection and effective treatment of eye diseases. I hope to continue to be an example of what happens when family invests in a child with a dream and community fosters growth and excellence in its future.