



### From the Founder's Desk

Phyllis L. Rodgers, President & CEO



As the 4th of July quickly approaches, we want to take a moment to not only wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend, but we want to also acknowledge and thank all of our supporters for their dedication and patience as we worked through the last 15 tumultuous months.

This summer has also been a special historic time. Juneteenth became a Federal holiday, and Peer Plus participated with the U.S. FDA Oncology Center of Excellence on its inaugural "National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week" (June 17-23), under the theme, "Engaging the Generations." On June 19th, Peer Plus collaborated with Friend-Health clinic in Chicago and other local sponsors to offer a variety of health screenings and resources.

Whether you are heading out to the beach, hosting a cookout or spending time with family and friends this weekend, we say to you: "Happy return to more normalcy, Happy Summer and Happy Independence Day to all!"

# **Educating to Save Lives**

Join Peer Plus for

# "Aware for All / Midwest"

Thursday July 22, 2021 at 4:30-6 PM Central Time



Peer Plus will once again participate as a virtual exhibitor with Boston-based CISCRP. The purpose of this event is to educate the public about clinical trials and research and highlight the importance of minority participation.

Click HERE to register or visit www.ciscrp.org for details.

### Start shopping on SMILE.AMAZON.com



Peer Plus Education and Training Advocates is now registered with <a href="mailto:smile.amazon.com">smile.amazon.com</a> as one of their many charities and will receive a donation of 0.5% from all purchases made. Want you to make Peer Plus your charity of choice and help us to continue to make a difference?

Click **HERE** to get started!

### **Words of Appreciation**

[Peer Plus supported single mom Ja'Mi Newbon in making



sure that her special needs son Ja'Kell had the best day at his 8th Grade graduation.

"Thanks to Peer Plus I have had a wonderful year! I will officially be a freshman at Baker college prep a noble school in the fall! Me and my family love u Ms. Phyllis. Thank you for dressing me for picture day and in my African garment for graduation. Wish you were there! You made me and mom so happy! — J. Waites

"We greatly appreciate the partnership with First Church of Deliverance in helping to spread the message of prevention and early detection of chronic

kidney disease throughout Illinois. Your support of our educational programs displays your dedication to the community you serve and provides increased awareness of the risks associated with untreated high blood pressure and diabetes. — National Kidney Foundation of Illinois

"Thank you and the Peer Plus family so much for your condolences and gift! The...family and I greatly appreciate it! — C. L.

"Thank you so very much for your help...Without your generosity I would have been in a real pickle. I am currently living with prostate cancer and in a real good place because of the counsel I received from Peer Plus and its caring president, Mrs. Phyllis Rodgers. God bless you all, and many thanks for the work you provide to the Chicagoland community."

— K. J.

#### Hope...Strength...Courage...

Ms. Shavoon Hayes received a cozy blanket from Peer Plus Education and Training Advocates. It was embroidered with positive, healing and affirming thoughts and provided a touch of comfort as she battles Multiple Sclerosis.



# **Recent Community Events**

#### A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

June 19th—Peer Plus used this first-time holiday to make visitors aware of the importance of diverse representation in clinical trials, the barriers that keep people from participating, and where to find resources about joining a study. Information about new initiatives offered by the US FDA's Oncology Center of

Excellence was also distributed.





#### Saturday, JUNE 19<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 2 pm

Friend Health-Cottage Grove 800 E. 55th Street

#### FREE healthy resources & activities:

- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- COVID Vaccines
- School/Camp Physicals
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Blood Glucose Screenings
- Meet "CoCo" & learn about Colon Health
- Cancer Screening Resources
- Family Entertainment & lots of FUN!!!















#### **COVID-19 VACCINE EVENT**

June 5th—Peer Plus hosted a free drive-thru vaccine event at Thornton United Methodist Church, in south suburban Thornton, Illinois. New Beginnings Worship Center, which holds services at Thornton UMC, also helped to promote the event and gave away bags of free food to attendees. The Illinois Department of Public Health administered the J&J vaccine.



# FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

May 27th—Peer Plus partnered with the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois to provide free kidney and diabetes screenings to community residents. The site was First Church of Deliverance Children's Church, 4317. S. Wabash Avenue, in Chicago. About 47% of the 34 attendees tested in the abnormal range for one or more tests. These results show how important the KidneyMobile<sup>®</sup> program is to Illinois communities.



