



From the Founder's Desk Phyllis L. Rodgers, President/CEO



It has been with both great joy and sadness that I write this newsletter. It has been a year unlike any other.

On three occasions, I was so consumed with emotion that words just failed me. Nonetheless, I decided to hunker down and go forth. That's all we can do--keep living, get through each day, survive, and thrive, in faith, resilience and hope. We do the best

we can. But first, we must always remember to take care of ourselves as we may have a loved one, or many, who depend on us.

This will not read like the typical Holiday newsletter. Since March we have been overwhelmed with more news and information than ever imaginable. Our lives have forever changed due to the racial and political upheaval in the nation and to COVID-19, with its continual emotional and financial impact on so many lives. I know mine has been impacted. Yet, I must accept it and challenge myself to find new ways to move forward. [READ MORE](#)

Join us on Facebook LIVE!



This Friday
December 18, 2020
2 p.m. Central Time

Click [HERE](#) to attend!
[@FarSouthChicagoAlliance](#)
Facebook page

New Partnership Provides COVID-19 Rapid Testing Site

Thank you to AETNA Insurance for introducing Peer Plus to CVS Pharmacy! Because of that connection, Peer Plus was able to team up CVS with New Spiritual Light Baptist Church and the Chicago Bible Institute (5120 S. King Drive) to create the first COVID-19 Rapid Testing site in Chicago. Since the October launch, this new facility has tested 2,000+ people who are grateful for its convenient location, rapid service (results in 20 minutes) and courteous, professional staff.

Have you heard?!
Free Rapid COVID-19 TESTING
At **Chicago Baptist Institute**
5120 S. KING DRIVE, CHICAGO

Sponsored by:
New Spiritual Light Missionary Baptist Church
Peer Plus Education and Training Advocates
and

3 Easy Steps!

- 1 Call **844-826-2838** and make an appointment.
Minors aged 10+ are now eligible for COVID-19 testing at CVS Pharmacy sites. A parent or legal guardian must register for all minors and accompany children during the test.
- 2 Take the nose swab test (less than 2 minutes).
- 3 WAIT FOR YOUR RESULTS!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
The testing site will be **CLOSED**:
Christmas Eve, December 24
Christmas Day, December 25
New Year's Eve, December 31
New Year's Day, January 1, 2021

Visit www.cvs.com for details.

A Few 2020 Stats

- Number of **Daily Calls** **20**
- Number of **New Clients** **65**
- Number of **New Community Engagement Partners** **6**
- CVS
New Spiritual light Church,
Illinois Dept. of Public Health
The University of Chicago
Chicago Urban League
US Food & Drug Administration
- Number of **Live Virtual Events**
(includes ZOOM and Facebook Live) **8**
- Number of **Bereavement/Funeral Support** **12**
- Avg. Number of **Guests at Community Events** **250**



2020 Giving Tuesday #2

[Click HERE to view Peer Plus videos](#)

2021 VIRTUAL EVENTS*

- Black History Month *February 23rd*
- Minority Health Month *April 22nd*
- Nat'l Cancer Survivors Day *June 3rd*

**Dates are tentative and subject to change.*

Partnering to Save Lives



In July Peer Plus partnered with Boston-based **CISCRP** (Ellen Getz) and hosted an amazing virtual **"Aware for All Chicago"** event. The purpose was to educate the public about clinical trials and research and highlight the importance of minority participation.



This information is especially relevant during the global pandemic, as the COVID-19 vaccine was being developed. While there are still questions and concerns to be addressed, we look forward to future opportunities to work with CISCRP in 2021. Visit www.ciscrp.org for details.

Words of Appreciation



"We are so happy and blessed! Peer Plus helped us when we were down and out. I been so worried about winter coats, toiletries, rent, and God sent us Ms. Phyllis Rodgers, our beautiful guardian angel on earth! Thank you all for the help. Now, I have a little more peace of mind!" —JM

"[My son] was really touched by what he saw today [as a youth volunteer]. He said that the homeless kids really got to him. Although he always knew it existed, I just think that seeing it firsthand was definitely real. He had me crying. Thank you so much for giving him the opportunity. Now he doesn't take his life for granted and appreciates it much more." —MM

"Sincere thanks to Mrs. Rodgers and [Peer Plus]...during my recent experience with prostate cancer. I am happy to say that I am a survivor and cancer-free because of Mrs. Rodgers' efforts and prayers, along with prayers of many relatives and loved ones. Thanks for the financial help at the time of my mother's death and...with my gas bill. Your contribution made the difference for me as you have made a difference for many others. —KDJ



May each of you have a Holiday Season filled with good health, goodwill toward others, joy and peace. Make a loving, conscious effort to celebrate life, solid friendships, support and good company. Try not to get too wrapped up in things, bright lights, tinsel and a "shop-til-you-drop" mindset.

Let us all, once again, be mindful of the *real* reason for the season.

In Gratitude and Love,
**Phyllis & Bruce (Sr.)
Rodgers**

P.S. Please enjoy some of our favorite Holiday music!
(Click below, scroll down until you see the "Christmas Music Player" playlist.)

<https://mychristmasrocks.com>

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