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## OUTREACH/NEW HORIZONS COLLEGE CLUB HISTORY

### HEADLINE.....

**"THIRTY-SEVEN OUTREACH STUDENTS ACCEPTED..."** and so was the beginning of a legacy!

The Outreach College Guidance Program opened its first door in 1970. A young and aspiring Plainfield High School Social Worker was compelled to provide proper guidance services to Plainfield High School juniors and seniors at a time when they were being steered into lives of vocation instead of profession. Born out of the "riots", Outreach sought to give black students a glimmer of opportunity which they were so desperately missing. William E. (Bill) Gary was the young man who conceived the grassroots, community organization out of Plainfield's very own grassroots community centers.

Faithfully meeting every Wednesday, Outreach Club members came to receive motivation to attend college and develop high level job skills. Those Plainfield juniors and seniors now had access to much more personalized counseling and supervision in the fulfillment of the pre-requisites for college admission and financing.

In 1983 Outreach College Club moved its operations from the Neighborhood House to Grant Avenue Community Center (presently the Black United Fund Complex). With a change of building, came a change in name. "New Horizons" was the club's new name, but its ingenuity and focus remained the same.

One of Bill Gary's mottoes is "Give Back", and that's what happened when former members started returning to the club. This set up a training ground for Bill Gary to teach the proper guidance services, as well as instill all of his aspirations in his former students. As apprentices, these former members began to exchange the torch of a legacy. Always fearing that if it were dropped, Bill Gary's flame of "Outreach" and creation of "New Horizons" would die.

As professionals, these former apprentices now steer firmly the yolk that directs the "New Horizons College Club, Inc." into the 21st century. They have diligently sought to expand New Horizons. The club not only caters to Plainfield students, but its doors are open to many students in the surrounding communities. Since the new leadership, the club now has the status of "corporation".

As long as there is a black child who desires higher education, the doors of New Horizons College Club, Incorporated will always be open.

**"LONG LIVE NEW HORIZONS!"**

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