



## Another Horizons Success Story!



We are pleased to announce that one of our students, who has persevered through learning challenges, recently gained acceptance to Wolcott School, a high school designed specifically to help children with a variety of learning differences. With smaller class sizes, Wolcott is able to offer its students increased personal attention, which allows for a more individualized learning experience.

Horizons for Youth has an exceptional track record of sending our students to the schools that best suit their individual needs. We work closely with our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to ensure that they apply to high schools that provide the ideal environments for them to succeed.

A key component of our High School Preparation Program is our Summer Program, which holds a "High School Prep" course for 7th and 8th grade students. This class educates the students on a wide range of topics regarding the high school application process, including testing at specific schools, applying to private, charter, and selective enrollment schools, as well as how to consider factors such as size, academics, and various extra-curricular activities and sports that schools offer.

Matching our students with the high school that provides them with the best fit is one of many crucial steps in the process of preparing them for college. With this proven

## Our Most Successful *On Cloud Nine* Ever!



Thank you to everyone who helped make the 14th Annual On Cloud Nine the most successful event to date! The event raised over \$235,000 that will be used to advance Horizons for Youth's mission of helping students from low-resource areas realize their full potential through education.

Over 450 guests came out to the beautiful Venue One on Chicago's Near West Side on February 1 to honor Paige Barnett and help raise funds to support Horizons for Youth's educational programs. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped make this year's event so successful. We hope to see you at next year's event in February 2015, where family and friends will once again come together with a common goal in remembrance of Paige.

On Cloud Nine was started in 2000 when Kent Barnett and Lauren Heath made a decision to honor their daughter Paige—who passed away from a rare virus—by doing something positive that would make a difference in their community. Fourteen years later, the event has raised well over \$2 million and helped Horizons for Youth increase its enrollment from 42 to 185. Jamarius and Dijonnais, two students who entered our program as a result of the inaugural On Cloud Nine, are now high school seniors who have been accepted into their first-choice colleges.

With your help, On Cloud Nine will continue to play a major role in allowing Horizons for Youth to expand our proven programs so that even more deserving students can become the first in their families to attend college.

Check out [these great photographs](#) (Courtesy of Ed Lines Photo) to see how much fun we had!

Thank you again to this year's sponsors of the 14th Annual *On Cloud Nine*!

• **Wirtz Beverage (Angel Sponsor)**

plan in place, it's no surprise that 99% of our students go on to earn their high school diplomas!

## Volunteers Needed: Horizons for Youth Poker Tournament

# Turner



The Horizons for Youth Poker Tournament, hosted by Turner Construction, is right around the corner, and we are looking for volunteers to serve as Texas Hold 'em dealers on the night of the event.

Dealing is fun and easy, and we will provide a brief training session prior to your shift.

**No dealing experience necessary.** At the conclusion of your shift, you are welcome to stay and enjoy the open bar and complimentary food.

The event details are below:

**Friday, February 21, 2014**  
**5:30pm – 11:00pm**  
**Merchandise Mart, 8th Floor Showroom**

If you are interested in volunteering at the event, please contact:

Brian Broccolo  
Brian@horizons-for-youth.org

**Thank you!**

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## February Mini Outing: Open Gym



By Avion, 3rd Grade

This past weekend, I went to the mini outing with my Big Sibling Mentor, Lon. We had an open gym at Frances Xavier Warde on Saturday afternoon, and Lon and I got to play sports with some of our other friends. We played basketball, tag, and even had a hula hoop contest.

My favorite part of the outing was scoring some baskets on my Big Sib and eating pizza with all of my friends.

During open gym, we learned about the rules of different games, and we learned that we had to have good sportsmanship to be allowed to play. Sometimes it is hard to be a good sport when you are losing, but it makes sure that everyone has fun no matter what.

Even though I scored on Lon, he did teach me how to dribble the ball through my legs. It was so fun to learn and I can't wait to practice and play basketball with him again soon!

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