

Gail W. Johnson, RN, MS

President, Rainbow Station and PRISM, Inc.



Short bio

Gail Johnson was a pediatric nurse at the Medical College of Virginia when she observed the lack of services for children and working parents and developed the concept of a place where children with usual childhood illnesses, and/or chronic medical conditions, could go when their parents had to go work. In 1989, she launched the Get Well Place at Rainbow Station, an infirmary for mildly ill children that is staffed by a full-time pediatric nurse. Rainbow Station also offers Preschool, Nursery School, Private Kindergarten, and recreation programs (in the Village) as well as Prescribed Pediatric Nursing Care for children with chronic medical conditions that require professional nursing.

In 1996, Rainbow Station was chosen as a Rising 25—A Top 25 Fastest-Growing Company, was one of 19 finalists for the Virginia State Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and was named the Greater Richmond Small Business Person of the Year. Gail was named Virginia Small Business Person of the Year in 1997. In 2002 and 2003, respectively, Gail was named YMCA Outstanding Woman in Business and the Innsbrook Rotary's Business Leader.

Gail is, and has been, active in many local and national business and industry associations including the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Child Daycare Council, state and local associations for early childhood education and the Virginia Council of CEOs.

Long bio

Gail Johnson is the founder and owner of Rainbow Stations, which offers early childhood education and after school recreation programs. There are six corporately owned Rainbow Stations schools in Richmond. In 1999, Gail created PRISM, the franchising company for Rainbow Station, and has currently sold franchises in Virginia, North Carolina and Texas. All Rainbow Station schools seek accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (NAEYC), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and the National Afterschool Alliance (recreation programs only) as soon as they become eligible.

Gail has always focused on women and children's issues throughout her career. She is a pediatric nurse with more than 35 years of experience. As a nurse, Gail held many roles, including visiting public health and home healthcare nurse; maternity, pediatric and newborn nursery staff nurse; Lamaze instructor; and Maternal/Child Nursing faculty member in both the MCV/VCU School of Nursing and J. Sargent Reynolds Community College Department of Nursing. She continues to hold an adjunct faculty status with MCV/VCU School of Nursing and serves as Vice President, Medical College of Virginia Foundation Board of Trustees. In 1993, Gail was awarded the Nurse Alumni Award for Outstanding Clinical Practice and in 1997 was the Medical College of Virginia Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

As a provider of early childhood education, Gail is active in numerous industry associations where she holds board and committee positions. Currently she's the Chairperson of the

Virginia Child Daycare Council and she served as President of the National Association for Sick Child Daycare from 1994 to 1999, where she planned and implemented four national conferences, conducted and published three nationwide surveys, spoke at many national and regional events, and more than doubled the membership. For these efforts, Gail received the **Gail Gonzales Award** in 1999 for outstanding leadership and service to NASCD.

Gail has earned numerous business awards including Rising 25—A Top 25 Fastest-Growing Company, Greater Richmond Small Business Person of the Year, Virginia Small Business Person of the Year, YMCA Outstanding Woman in Business and the Innsbrook Rotary's Business Leadership Award. Gail serves on many local business and civic boards and committees. She was the 2003-2004 chairperson of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce and is currently the chairperson of the Virginia Council of CEOs. Gail is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond.

Gail Johnson: At a Glance

President, Rainbow Station and PRISM, Inc.

Professional Affiliations:

Business

- Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Immediate Past Chair, 2004-2005; Chair, 2003-2004; Chair-elect, Chair, Capital Campaign and Co-Chair, Inner City Visit, 2002-2003; Vice Chair, Chamber of Commerce including Chairman, Youth Matters, 2001-2002; Represented the Small Business Community on the Executive Board 1999-2000; Board Member, 1997-2000 and 2001-2005
- Greater Richmond Partnership, Board Member, 2003-2004
- Greater Richmond Chamber Foundation, Board Member, 2003-2004
- Small Business Advisory Council, Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Chair 1999-2000; Member, 1990-present
- IMPACT Award, Co-Chairman, 1998-2000; Member, 1997-2005
- Virginia Council of CEO's, Board Member, 2000 to present; Treasurer, 2000-2001; Chair-Elect, 2003-2005; Chairman, 2006 to present
- President's Group, Board Member, 1998 to present

Industry

- Virginia Child Daycare Council, Gubernatorial appointment; Chair, 2003 to present; Board, 2002 to present
- National Association for the Education of Young Children, Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children and Richmond Early Childhood Association, Member, 1990 to present

Civic

- March of Dimes, Board, 2001 to present
- SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), Board, 2005-2008
- Corporate and Community Coalition, A Work Life Initiative, Member, 1991-2001
- Henrico Education Foundation, Henrico County Schools Board, Member, 1999-2001; Treasurer, 1999-2001
- Youth Matters, Board, 2000 to present; Chair, 2001-2002
- GO READ, Greater Richmond Region; Co-Chair, 2002

Leadership

- Leadership Colloquium for Professional Women, Advisory Council, 1997-1999
- Women's Ministries, Advisory Board, 1999-2004
- National Association for Women Business Owners, Member, 1996 to present
- Leadership Metro Richmond Class of 1999
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Member
- Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society, Member

Nursing

- Nursing Advancement Council, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing, Board Member, 2002 to present; Vice Chair, 2003 to 2006; Chair, 2006-2008
- MCV Foundation, Virginia Commonwealth University, Board Member, 1996 to present; Secretary, 2001-2002; Vice President, 2002 to present