



Virginians Organized for Interfaith
Community Engagement
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NEWS RELEASE

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PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO EXPAND DENTAL CARE FOR ADULTS IN WESTERN FAIRFAX, VA

STATE & COUNTY LEADERS ADD \$10K TO \$140K IN PRIVATE FUNDS SECURED BY V.O.I.C.E.

Reston, VA – On Sunday afternoon January 29, over 350 members of faith communities and civic organizations in the Reston-Herndon area of Fairfax County gathered under the banner of V.O.I.C.E. (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement), and won the support of State and County leaders for an effort to strategically expand dental care for low income adults in the Western part of Fairfax County.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova and VA Senator Janet Howell, along with other elected leaders, voiced their support for the V.O.I.C.E. effort to put a full-time dentist dedicated to serving Fairfax residents at the Sterling location of the Northern VA Dental Clinic. V.O.I.C.E. leaders have already raised \$140,000 of the \$200,000 needed to cover the cost for two years from private donors. Chairman Bulova and Sen. Howell announced an additional \$10,000 pledge by INOVA Hospital, on Sunday, and agreed to work with V.O.I.C.E. until the full \$200,000 is committed.

Atanacio Sandoval, a leader at St. John Neumann parish reminded those assembled of V.O.I.C.E.'s success, and the commitment of Fairfax County Government, in adding a full-time dentist to the Northern VA Dental Clinic at Bailey's Crossroads to serve low-income and uninsured patients. Lori McLean, a nurse practitioner described the excitement of V.O.I.C.E. leaders seeing the state of the art facility in Sterling, and recognizing the opportunity to serve the thousands of people without care in western Fairfax. Community leaders and local pastors testified to the suffering, loss of work, and unnecessary emergency room visits faced by those without dental coverage. Kristin Donohue, a dentist who has volunteered at the Bailey's clinic, delivered a passionate plea: "I know that we can do better here in Fairfax County! ... Funding of these fantastic clinics is a huge return on investment for our community."

V.O.I.C.E. leaders acknowledged a \$100,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor, and the \$40,000 V.O.I.C.E. leaders had raised to match that offer to date: \$20,000 from Delta Dental Foundation, \$10,000 from Molina Health Care, and \$10,000 from INOVA Hospital. McLean noted that V.O.I.C.E. leaders are not asking for county or state support in these lean times, instead: "Today we are here to ask our elected officials to throw their weight behind this effort and get the remaining \$60,000 from some of our successful corporations here in Fairfax. Chairman Bulova and Sen. Howell, along with Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, and Delegate Ken Plum who were also present, pledged to follow up with Reston Hospital/HCA and others to seek another \$50,000 and before the meeting ended, a NoVA family foundation, The Jon C. Burr foundation came forward with another \$5,000. The packed assembly voiced their commitment to stand with these and other elected officials until the last dollar is raised and a dentist is in place.