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### **New Dental Clinic Creates New Jobs**

The Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic, a new safety net clinic serving low income families in Orange, Madison, Greene and Culpeper counties, has started hiring personnel. The Clinic has created seven new jobs in order to staff the Clinic on opening day. As patient demand grows the Clinic will hire additional dental teams (one dentist and two dental assistants) in order to expand the number of patients it is able to serve. When fully operational the Clinic will have nine operatories and an annual payroll that exceeds \$750,000. The Clinic plans to start treating patients in early summer 2011.

“In spring 2011 we will hire one dentist, three dental assistants, a Dental Practice Manager, a Patient Outreach Coordinator, a Medicaid Billing Administrator and part-time Dental Hygienists.” said André Hintermann, President of the PRDC Board of Directors.

Dentist candidates have already begun interviewing because of the long credentialing period required by both the Commonwealth of Virginia and by Medicaid. The compensation package for the new Clinic’s first dentist will be supported for three years by a grant from the Virginia Health Care Foundation. “Access to oral health care is a huge issue in Virginia” according to Deborah Oswalt, Executive Director of the Virginia Health Care Foundation. There are more low income children with Medicaid-based insurance in the Piedmont than can be served by area dentists who accept Medicaid insurance. “The Commonwealth simply needs more oral health care Medicaid providers so Virginia Health Care Foundation has made it a priority to establish and expand the statewide dental safety net.” The Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic will be the newest such dental safety net clinic in Virginia. Oswalt will be the keynote speaker at the Reasons To Smile Benefit on March 28, 2011 at Montpelier. Proceeds from the event will be used to equip and supply the new dental safety net clinic.

“In addition to our dentist, the Clinic needs a number of Dental Assistants”, according to Hintermann. “We are actively accepting dental assistant resumes right now and will hire these positions closer to our opening date.” The Clinic is also recruiting part time Dental Hygienists to start mid-summer. The Clinic

been advertising these positions through its website, newspapers, magazines and internet sites like Craig's List Medical Jobs for about two months. Complete position descriptions are available on PRDC's website at [www.vaprdc.org](http://www.vaprdc.org) and all resumes are requested to be submitted on-line.

The Clinic will be located in the Colonial Shopping Center in Orange, Virginia in facility originally designed as a physical therapy clinic. According to Mayor Chuck Mason, "the Town of Orange is excited about the adaptive reuse of the building PRDC will occupy. The increased activity in the shopping center will also be a positive. These new jobs are just what is needed in this economy. The Town feels very fortunate PRDC chose to locate here."

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