

## Inova Partnership for Healthier Kids

Sponsor: Inova Health System

Location : Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County, Virginia

**Partners:** Fairfax County Government, Fairfax County Public Schools, Loudon County Government and the City of Alexandria

As a result of a 1993 Community Health Task Force, the Inova Partnership for Healthier Kids (PHK) emerged as an innovative public/private partnership to increase access to preventive and primary health care services for children. Access to Care, its flagship program, helps uninsured children find coordinated primary care for their preventative and routine health care needs. Eligible children are identified through innovative outreach programs offered in more than 170 public schools representing over 85,000 students. In an area with a high immigrant population, ethnically diverse, linguistically appropriate caseworkers contact families, conduct a needs assessment, and refer children to local primary care providers at the Inova Pediatric Center or one of the local safety net health care programs for uninsured residents, as well as help those eligible enroll in Medicaid or Virginia SCHIP. Also, PHK worked with schools to target outreach efforts to students without health insurance, connecting more than 12,000 children to health care services. Over 3,200 of these children have enrolled successfully in Medicaid or Virginia SCHIP.

In addition to these identification and enrollment activities, PHK and partner organizations have provided free back-to-school and sports physicals since August 2001 for children without insurance. 2003 will be no exception. With five events scheduled in July and August, the partnership between Inova, one of the area's largest health care systems, and Fairfax County Public Schools, the nation's third largest school district, will provide free physicals, immunizations and comprehensive application assistance for more than 700 kids.

"Access to health insurance is a growing concern in our community," said Elita Christiansen, Inova's assistant vice president, community health division. "We're pleased to partner with so many groups in signing kids up to Medicaid and SCHIP."

**For more information, contact:**

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