



**UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**

At the Heart of Community

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**MOUNT VERNON CENTER FOR DENTISTRY SUPPORTS UCM EARLY LEARNING CENTER:
Smiles for Life Foundation Teeth-Whitening Campaign Generates \$3,075 Gift**



Photo: File name 10-16-15_UCM_SmilesLife_photo.jpg
Photo attached as 300dpi+ with email distributed to media.

Mount Vernon Center for Dentistry participated in the national Smiles For Life teeth-whitening campaign and designated the UCM Early Learning Center as its local beneficiary for the proceeds generated. Pictured accepting the \$3,075 check from the Smiles For Life Foundation with Dr. James Geren (left) is Nichelle A. Mitchem, Executive Director at United Community Ministries (UCM).

“Thank you to all the patients that participated this year. We are grateful to Dr. Geren and Dr. Mady and everyone at the Mount Vernon Center for Dentistry for this generous gift from the Smiles for Life Foundation,” says UCM Executive Director Nichelle A. Mitchem. “This year, we are putting a special emphasis on our programs that help children grow and thrive. This gift means our youngest community members –infants and pre-schoolers at our Early Learning Center – will continue to have opportunities to reach their full potential. Our special emphasis on social-emotional development ensures our students are prepared to learn when they enter Kindergarten, creating a strong foundation for the rest of their education.”

Pictured at far left is Dr. James Geren, presenting the check to UCM Early Learning Center Assistant Director Bridgette Hamilton and UCM Executive Director Nichelle A. Mitchem, along with other members of the Mount Vernon Center for Dentistry team.

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Mount Vernon Center for Dentistry has been participating to donate their time in the national Smiles for Life campaign for many years. It is one of hundreds of dental practices that provide discounted professional teeth-whitening services to raise money to benefit children's programs during the March to June campaign period. "We truly appreciate the dental center's ongoing support for UCM, including event sponsorships and generously providing pro bono dental services to our clients with dental emergencies," adds Mitchem.

Smiles for Life Foundation operates an annual fundraising campaign that raises money locally and nationally for seriously ill, disabled, or underprivileged children. Participating dental practices donate their time for teeth-whitening services, which are offered to their clients at a significant discount.. One hundred percent of services proceeds are donated to local and national charities of each dental practices' choosing. Since 1998, the program has raised over \$30 million, benefitting hundreds of children's charities. Smiles for Life is sponsored by members of the Crown Council, an alliance of leading edge dental teams throughout the United States and Canada who are committed to charitable work. For more information, visit www.smilesforlife.org.

United Community Ministries (UCM) mobilizes the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives. For more than 46 years, UCM has provided a vital connection between people in need and the people committed to helping them thrive. Services include:

- **Immediate Help.** For families and individuals in crisis, UCM provides food, financial aid, counseling, and referrals to other resources.
- **Education and Employment.** Services such as job training and coaching, full-day early care and learning, ESL and citizenship classes, and parental education help people achieve stability and self-reliance.
- **Community Engagement.** UCM's neighborhood centers, with after-school programs and leadership training, engage youth and families in skill-building and broader social networks for success.

In Fiscal Year 2015, thanks to generous community support, UCM provided life-changing assistance to 10,200 individuals in 4,000 families in the Alexandria portion of Fairfax County, including almost 5,000 children.

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