



**OBICI**  
HEALTHCARE  
FOUNDATION

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**For Additional Information Contact:**

Annette Beuchler, President and CEO  
Obici Healthcare Foundation  
757-539-8810 or [abeuchler@obicihcf.org](mailto:abeuchler@obicihcf.org)

**Obici Healthcare Foundation Symposium**

**“Assignment: Impact!” Creating a Foundation for Success**

Rolls Out Important NEW Early Childhood Education Initiative

For Children In Western Tidewater

*Wednesday, October 31 • 9:30 am – 11:30 a.m.*

*Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts*

**Keynote Speaker - Dr. Robert Pianta, PhD**

*Dean of the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia*

**Special Guest Speaker - The Honorable S. Chris Jones**

*Virginia House of Delegates 76<sup>th</sup> District*

**Suffolk, VA:** What if every young child in Virginia had the education foundation he or she needs for success in school and life? This goal is at the core of the new early childhood education initiative and partnership between the Obici Healthcare Foundation and the University of Virginia for young children in Western Tidewater.

Obici Healthcare Foundation’s mission is to improve the health status of the people living in Western Tidewater by responding to the medical needs of the indigent and uninsured and by supporting programs which have the primary purpose of preventing illness and disease.

In 2017 the Foundation commissioned its first Community Health Needs Assessment. The purpose of the assessment was to gather local community level data to help the Foundation identify the health issues of greatest concern to its service area. The results of this assessment were used to help the Foundation make decisions on where to commit resources in order to have the greatest impact on community health status.

As a result, in 2018 the Board of Directors set forth an updated strategy for grant making around two strategic priority areas: Access to Healthcare and Prevention. Today **Access to Healthcare** receives 50% of the Foundation’s funding and the new transformative initiative **Prevention** receives the remaining 50%.

**Access to Healthcare** has been at the core of the Obici Healthcare Foundation since its inception in 2006 and focuses on health “safety-net” providers, who deliver care to uninsured, underinsured and medically underserved populations who otherwise could not access it. Core safety net providers include emergency rooms, free and charitable clinics, local health

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departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and community health centers. The Foundation Safety-net initiative focuses on improving access to primary care, oral and mental health.

Access to Healthcare also includes an investment by the Foundation in improving maternal and child health outcomes. By addressing potential health issues in pregnancy or early infancy, death and disability can be prevented. The goal is to decrease the overall infant mortality rate in the Foundation's service area, which may help children to reach their full potential in life.

### **Why Prevention?**

The Foundation chose to continue its efforts in prevention of chronic illness and disease because research shows that addressing social determinants of health is a path to better health status. Social determinants are the environmental conditions to which people are born, live, learn, work, play and worship. These conditions, and age, can affect a wide range of health functioning and quality of life outcomes and risks.

The most recent data from the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program indicates that 40% of students enter kindergarten "not ready" in terms of demonstrating key school readiness skills. For children coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, that percentage climbs to 48% - almost half of these children enter kindergarten far behind their more advantaged peers. The results have long-term consequences including falling below grade level expectations, grade retention, special educations placement and school dropout.

Consequently, an investment in the early years of life is one of the best investments we can make. Improving early childhood education can enhance the quality of life and have a significant influence on later health status. Obici Healthcare Foundation's vision combines the power of people, programs and policies to transform the lives of young children in Western Tidewater in a way that will have lasting impact. The Virginia General Assembly has already made an investment to improve the quality of young children's preschool experiences. The Obici Healthcare Foundation is expanding this funding to provide these investments across preschool sectors giving the preschool programs, including those within the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), Head Start, faith-based and private programs, the opportunity to also engage in these initiatives. By creating a public/private partnership, we will expand the funding from the Virginia General Assembly and give more money to help children in Western Tidewater. The pathway towards realizing the vision for every young child in Western Tidewater to have the educational experiences they need for success in school and life combines the power of people, programs and policy to transform young children in ways that will have a lasting impact.

This exciting **Prevention** initiative has three important components:

1. Promotion of **Healthy Behaviors** by supporting programs that address new and expanded opportunities for better nutrition and increased physical activity (30% of the funding).
2. **Capacity Building**, a way for the Foundation to help nonprofits carry out their missions more effectively. It is the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do their jobs competently

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or to a greater capacity (larger scale, larger audience, larger impact, etc.). It enables nonprofit organizations and their leaders to develop competencies and skills that can make them more effective and sustainable, thus increasing the potential for charitable nonprofits to enrich lives and solve society's most intractable problems (30% of funding).

**3. Investing in Quality Early Childhood Education** by supporting programs that provide training for teachers to improve kindergarten readiness and to identify kids in trauma (40% of the funding).

According to Annette Beuchler, President and CEO, Obici Healthcare Foundation, "Improving the level of early childhood education is the primary path for improving overall academic achievement and ultimately better health status." As a result, Obici Healthcare Foundation has created several new collaborations for better early childhood education to serve the children in Western Tidewater.

**1. Wide-scale implementation of the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP).**

Understanding how Virginia children are developing key readiness skills helps us make smart investments to ensure student success. VKRP is a kindergarten readiness assessment that builds off Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) to assess children's skills in math, self-regulation, and social skills. VKRP includes online, interactive reports and instructional resources. VKRP is expanding implementation to all schools. The Virginia Department of Education supports the use of VKRP in public kindergarten classrooms. *The Obici Healthcare Foundation will support the pilot preschool extension of VKRP in Western Tidewater to include Suffolk City, Franklin, Surry, Isle of Wight and Southampton County.*

**2. Observing and Enhancing the Quality of Preschool Classrooms**

Teacher-child interaction is a key component of a high-quality early childhood experience. The quality of the teacher-child interactions will be assessed using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) at least every two years, and teachers will receive individualized professional development. Virginia Department of Education funds will support CLASS observations in Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) programs. *The Obici Healthcare Foundation will support CLASS observations in Head Start, faith-based and private classrooms.*

**3. Piloting STREAMin3 Curriculum.**

In partnership with Elevate Early Education (E3), the University of Virginia's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTIL), the Curry School of Education created a curriculum model that combines the latest developmental and early education research with E3's experience working in Early Childhood Education (ECE) classrooms and supporting teachers. The integrated, comprehensive model – Science Technology Reading Engineering Arts & Math – Integrated Intentional Interactions – includes activities and routines for the classroom, assessments, and professional development designed to support quality implementation and meaningful interactions. The Virginia Department of Social Services funds will support the pilot of the curriculum package in private and faith-based classrooms (birth-preschool). *The Obici Healthcare Foundation will support the pilot of the curriculum in Virginia Preschool Initiative and Head Start Classrooms.*

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## **The Results**

By leveraging the statewide initiatives to work across sectors, Obici Healthcare Foundation will provide access to ECE opportunities for a wide range of preschool classrooms and make Western Tidewater a model case study for Virginia.

Currently funding will be distributed across the various ECE initiatives in Western Tidewater. The project will be led by the UVA CASTL team, which will communicate closely with the Foundation staff and the local project coordinator, coaches, implementation specialists, school leaders and other stakeholders. Implementation of the various initiatives will be accomplished through local project coordinators, coaches, instructional specialists, school leaders and teachers. Specifically, a full-time, onsite project coordinator has been budgeted to coordinate all initiatives and help ensure full engagement within the community. Local coaches will be hired and trained by CASTL and supported in curriculum implementation. Local community members will be trained on the CLASS via state funding. Professional development will be delivered by CASTL (through state funding). Curriculum coaches are currently being recruited. Recruitment for CLASS and Professional Development will occur in the late winter of 2018 and spring of 2019.

## **The Budget**

The total statewide ECE investment in directly related to the proposed projects is \$5,925,000. The investment for Obici Healthcare Foundation is \$1,000,000 for 50 state or federally funded classrooms (VPI and Head Start) and 16 private and faith-based classrooms to receive the curriculum, for all classrooms to receive CLASS observations and feedback and for all data analysis and dissemination efforts including connecting preschool data to kindergarten VKRP data. The Foundation's investment will leverage the statewide-appropriated funds so children of Western Tidewater will have improved access to quality early childhood education.

This is great news according to Delegate S. Chris Jones who adds "UVA's Center of Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) is working with the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) as well as faith-based and private programs to focus on what matters the most — high quality teaching. I am pleased to hear the Obici Healthcare Foundation has approved a \$1 million grant to UVA, partnering to provide opportunities to ensure our children are ready for kindergarten and a path toward a successful future."

## **About OHF**

The Obici Healthcare Foundation is a private foundation established in 2006 from the sale of Louise Obici Memorial Hospital to Sentara Healthcare. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$46 million in grant funding. For additional information, visit [www.Obicihcf.org](http://www.Obicihcf.org) or call 757-539-8810.