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### **Area Residents Receive Free Dentures as Result of Workshop**

ORANGE, Virginia – Five patients of the Charlottesville Free Clinic are smiling again after receiving free dentures at a recent, special workshop at the Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic. The event, which was initiated by the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF), trained dentists and dental assistants from the Central Virginia area on how to fit and install Larell One Step™ Dentures. It was co-sponsored by the Virginia Dental Association (VDA) and Larell One Step™ Dentures.

The goal of the initiative is to expand the availability of free or low-cost quality dentures to uninsured Virginians, by introducing the time-efficient and cost-effective Larell One Step™ Dentures process to all 71 of the state's dental safety net clinics. Dr. Larry Wallace, owner and CEO of Larell One Step™ Dentures, was joined by two other instructors in the third training sponsored by VHCF since March. VHCF plans to continue the educational initiative throughout the Commonwealth in the coming year.

“Too many Virginians cannot afford needed dental care, and ultimately require extractions,” said Debbie Oswalt, VHCF’s Executive Director. “Over time, this leads to a need for dentures, which are typically too expensive and time-consuming for dental safety net clinics to produce.” Larell One Step™ Dentures are designed so that patients can be fitted with dentures in just one visit that typically takes about an hour. “Our positive interviews with nearly 100 Virginians who are currently using Larell dentures led us to undertake this initiative. It’s a wonderful solution to a very extensive problem.”

## **About the Virginia Health Care Foundation**

The Virginia Health Care Foundation is a non-profit public/private partnership dedicated to increasing access to primary health care for uninsured and medically underserved Virginians. The Foundation was initiated by the General Assembly and its Joint Commission on Health Care in 1992. Since its inception, it has funded 330 community-based projects throughout the Commonwealth, and its programs and partnerships have touched the lives of more than 600,000 uninsured Virginians.

For more information about VHCF and its programs, visit [www.vhcf.org](http://www.vhcf.org) or call (804) 828-5804. For more information about the Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic, visit [www.vaprdc.org](http://www.vaprdc.org) or call (540) 668-0008.

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