



Virginia Garcia Memorial
FOUNDATION

Press contacts:

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**VIRGINIA GARCIA MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTER SELECTED
FOR BAG&BAGGAGE PRODUCTIONS'
"BENEFIT NIGHT" PROGRAM**

*Thursday, December 10 Performance of "A Christmas Carol"
Will Raise Funds for Children's Dental Program*

Hillsboro, OR—November 15, 2009—For each regular-season theatrical play Bag&Baggage produces, a portion of all tickets sold on a specific night is dedicated to a chosen local charity. For the upcoming show, "A Christmas Carol," Bag&Baggage has chosen the Children's Dental Program at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center as the beneficiary.

"We created our Benefit Night program to provide a new way for theatre-goers to support service organizations, and Virginia Garcia is exceptionally worthy of support," said Patrick Spike, Bag&Baggage board member. "The funds we raise will help provide comprehensive dental care for children."

Virginia Garcia provides high quality primary healthcare with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farm workers, and their children and serves over 30,000 people per year.

"In our 2009 fiscal year, we served 5,395 children in the dental program alone; that's a 23% increase over 2008, and a 74% increase over 2007," said Dental Director Lisa Bozzetti, DDS. "Oral health is vital to a child's well-being. A toothache affects school attendance, concentration, self-esteem, nutrition, and general health. Dental decay is the most common childhood disease—and it's 100% preventable! We use education, prevention, and treatment to change these statistics in the communities we serve."

Adds Christine Rontal, executive director of the Virginia Garcia Foundation, "A benefit night at the theatre is an exciting way for families and individuals to do something fun in the holiday spirit—while simultaneously supporting children's dental health. We are grateful to have Bag&Baggage as our partner, they understand the need in our community and support our programs."

The Charity Benefit Night for Virginia Garcia will take place on Thursday December 10, 7:30 pm, at The Venetian Theatre. \$5 of every ticket purchased for "A Christmas Carol" that night will be donated to Virginia Garcia; the evening could raise as much as \$2000 for the Children's Dental program.

Bag&Baggage Productions'
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Virginia Garcia Benefit Night
Thursday Dec 10, 2009 7:30pm
Tickets \$12

The Venetian Theatre
253 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Buy a ticket and support the
Children's Dental Program at
Virginia Garcia:**

Online at www.bagnbaggage.org
Or by phone at 503-516-4840

BAG&BAGGAGE VIRGINIA GARCIA BENEFIT NIGHT AT THE VENETIAN THEATRE

www.bagnbaggage.org

503.516.4840

info@bagnbaggage.org

Alberto's story:

Alberto is a four-year-old boy who had cavities in every tooth in his mouth. His mother had been able to afford only a few crowns for his front teeth. She hoped that Virginia Garcia could help. One look at Alberto, and we knew he needed a very extensive treatment plan. We weren't sure we'd be able to complete the treatment due to his young age and behavior compliance issues. What began as very short appointments to help him become more cooperative ended with a completed treatment plan and a very happy little boy (and mother). He is now being seen for follow up exams and cleanings every 6 months and is doing very well. — Lisa Bozzetti, DDS

If you'd like to make a contribution to the Children's Dental Program at Virginia Garcia but can't attend A Christmas Carol on Thursday, December 10, please visit www.virginiagarcia.org and look for the DONATE button on the front page.

About the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center:

Virginia Garcia provides high quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate primary healthcare to the communities of Washington and Yamhill Counties, with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farm workers and others with barriers to receiving healthcare.

- 64% of patients self-identify as Hispanic, 25% as White, 2% as African American/Black and 1% as Asian. A few self-identify as Native Hawaiian or American Indian.
- 45 languages are spoken at our clinics.
- 48% of our patients are 18 years of age or younger.
- 19% of our patients are migrant or seasonal farm workers.
- 73% of our patients are below the federal poverty level, which means that they make less than \$22,050 a year for a family of four.
- 44% of our patients are uninsured, 43% are insured by OHP, 4% are insured by Medicare and 9% have private health insurance.

Virginia Garcia provides over 110,000 office visits to more than 30,000 patients annually in Washington and Yamhill Counties at four primary care clinics, three dental offices, and two school-based health centers. We also provide outreach to schools, community health fairs and to migrant and seasonal farm workers at local camps through our mobile clinic.

For more information: Britt F. Rosenberg, MPA, Assistant Development Officer
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About "A Christmas Carol" and Bag&Baggage:

Charles Dickens' book, *A Christmas Carol*, is a Victorian morality tale of an old and bitter miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of a Christmas Eve night. Bag&Baggage has created a unique adaptation that brings Dickens himself onto the stage and provides a hilarious combination of slapstick, wordplay and audience participation suitable for the whole family. It's truly a classic tale imbued with Christmas spirit.

For more information about "A Christmas Carol," or to learn more about Bag&Baggage, Hillsboro's only professional theatre company, visit Bag&Baggage online at www.bagnbaggage.org.

BAG&BAGGAGE VIRGINIA GARCIA BENEFIT NIGHT AT THE VENETIAN THEATRE

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