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## ATTENTION: MEDIA/PHOTO ADVISORY

### CHILDREN'S SCIENCE CENTER SHARES ITS EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN STEM EDUCATION WITH LOUDOUN COUNTY



From L to R): Mitzy Benitez, Melissa Nord, Meteorologist WUSA9, Tony Howard, President & CEO, Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, Amy Burke, Center Board Chair, and Nene Spivy, Executive Director.

**May 3, 2018 (DULLES, VA)** --- The Children's Science Center celebrated a successful fundraising event by raising over \$100,000 to support its mission and operations in addition to sharing exciting developments since the opening of the Children's Science Center Lab, at Fair Oaks Mall. The Founders Society Event "Together We Grow," held at the Belmont Country Club on May 1, near the proposed site of the future full-scale science center, included a program of remarks from business and community leaders, youth, staff and Board Members, highlighting the need to inspire the half-million children in our region to love learning science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and how the Children's Science Center is uniquely positioned to do that.

The fundraiser began with a showcase including youth ambassadors sharing their design ideas for the future museum and current exhibits from the Children's Science Center Lab that opened almost three years ago. This was followed by a light breakfast while speakers shared their personal stories and connections with the Children's Science Center. WUSA9 Meteorologist Melissa Nord, emceed the event, interviewing a select panel of children followed by Tony Howard, President and CEO of the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce along with Mitzy Benitez, a parent and educator, who shared their personal testimonials.



The event concluded with a call for help to raise vital funds to sustain current programs and operations as well as to advance the efforts for the future science center for which land has been donated by the developers of Kincora located on Route 28 in the Dulles area of Loudoun County, Virginia.

The Children's Science Center's mission is to instill a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create and be inspired. The Children's Science Center Lab is located at Fair Oaks Mall and is Northern Virginia's first interactive museum where children, families and school groups can explore STEM concepts through fun, engaging hands-on exhibits, activities and programs. In addition to the Lab and community programs, the Center is working to fulfill the vision of a full-scale, world-class children's science museum to be located in Dulles, VA. The Children's Science Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more at [www.childsci.org](http://www.childsci.org).

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Melissa Nord interviews Will, Spencer and Eva



Tony Howard, President & CEO of Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce speaks to the audience