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**Partnerships for Children**  
*Healthy Children, Bright Futures*



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## Loudoun Faces Unprecedented Cuts to Family Services

FEBRUARY 10

*State budget proposal puts INMED's MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun program at risk*

Ashburn, VA (February 10, 2011) –Despite a record of success documenting how Healthy Families programs in Loudoun County and across Virginia can reverse a trajectory of poor developmental outcomes in children at risk, these programs face a devastating \$1 million cut in the new state budget.

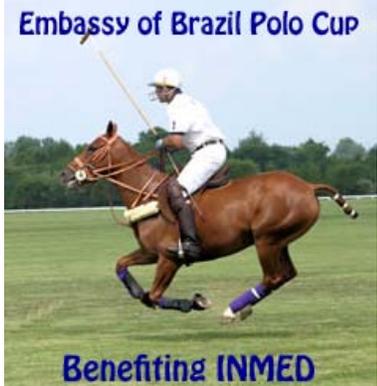
In Loudoun, these cuts would result in staff layoffs and an end to services to half the families in INMED Partnerships for Children's MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun (MN/HFL) program, representing approximately 100 individuals. These high-risk families would no longer have access to in-home education and case management services that prevent child abuse and neglect, link them to preventive health care and other resources, and help them prepare their children to start school healthy and ready to learn.

"It is INMED's mission to rescue children from the immediate and irreversible harm of disease, hunger, abuse, neglect or violence," says Dr. Linda Pfeiffer, president and CEO of INMED. "An end to the services we provide in Loudoun County will mean that we can no longer save children before they are ill, hungry, abused or neglected. Instead they will have to suffer first, and then get help later."

INMED Partnerships for Children, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Loudoun County, opened its MN/HFL program in 1994. In its 17 years of service, this program has guided hundreds of at-risk families to give their children a safe and healthy start in life.

Some of the program's most important recent outcomes, analyzed and reported by independent evaluators Lee Huntington and Associates in partnership with research faculty from the College of William and Mary, include:

- 94% of babies were born at healthy weights.
- 92% of children remained up-to-date on their immunizations.



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- No teen mothers had repeat births.
- No families had founded reports of child abuse or neglect.

These short-term results will ultimately have a long-term impact on the entire community, preventing the need for costly future treatment services. According to Healthy Families Virginia, the average cost of serving one child for one year when treatment is necessary ranges from \$9,000 to \$15,000. In contrast, every \$1 invested in prevention services saves the public \$14 in taxpayer-funded intervention services. The state's investment in the MN/HFL program through the Healthy Families Initiative also helps INMED leverage hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional public- and private-sector funding for the benefit of Loudoun's families.

"We are hopeful that Virginia legislators will restore the remaining \$1 million so that MN/HFL is not forced to terminate any of the services so desperately needed by the community," said Maria Elena Vasquez-Alvarez, director of INMED's Loudoun County programs. "As Dr. James Heckman, a Nobel Laureate in economics, said best: 'The question is not where to cut. The question is where to invest, and in what.'"

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*About INMED Partnerships for Children—Since 1986, INMED Partnerships for Children has built alliances with public- and private-sector partners in more than 100 countries to rescue children from the immediate and irreversible harm of disease, hunger, abuse, neglect or violence, and to prepare them to shape a brighter future for themselves and the next generation. Through a broad range of health, social, education, violence prevention and community development programs, INMED is helping to create opportunities that inspire hope, build self-reliance and encourage community collaboration to sustain positive change. For more information, visit [www.inmed.org](http://www.inmed.org).*

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