



Press Release

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Mary's Center Named as Finalist in Aetna Voices of Health Campaign
One of 33 Groups from Across the Country Competing for a \$30,000 First Place Award

Washington, DC-- [Mary's Center](#) was announced today as one of the 33 finalists in the 2013 “Aetna Voices of Health” national campaign. Voting for the campaign takes place at www.aetnavoicesofhealth.com and goes through October 13th.

Each organization has developed a one-minute in-house video featuring their services and the impact of their work, and Aetna will award \$30,000 to the group that gets the most online votes and \$20,000 to the second-place finisher. All of the finalists promote wellness locally by fighting conditions like asthma, diabetes and childhood obesity, which affect people of color at higher rates.

“We are extremely honored to be selected as a finalist in the ‘Aetna Voices of Health’ campaign,” said Maria Gomez, Mary’s Center President and CEO. “We have a committed and multidisciplinary team of providers, health educators, social services and support staff who work hard every day to help our participants control their chronic diseases and to reduce health disparities in the nation’s capital and surrounding areas.

Starting today, the “[Aetna Voices of Health](#)” website will feature each organization’s video describing how the prize money would help them achieve their mission.

“There are a lot of great organizations participating, but we are going to campaign as hard as possible for votes,” said Rebecca Diamond, Chief Development Officer at Mary’s Center. “We appreciate any support we receive and encourage people to share our video and help us campaign through social media.”

Aetna created “Voices of Health” in 2011 to honor groups that share its goals of closing racial and ethnic health care inequality gaps and helping people live healthier lives. The campaign is part of its support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project. Aetna donated \$1.275 million to support the project, with a portion of its gift used to help plant 180 new cherry trees at the memorial site in Washington, D.C.

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MARY’S CENTER— founded in 1988, is a [Federally Qualified Health Center](#) that provides health care, family literacy and social services to thousands of individuals whose needs too often go unmet by the public and private healthcare systems. Mary’s Center uses a holistic, multipronged approach to help each participant access individualized services that set them on the path toward good health, stable families, and economic independence. The Center offers high-quality, professional care in a safe and trusting environment to residents from the entire DC metropolitan region, including individuals from over 110 countries. For more information, please visit www.maryscenter.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).