

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DCTV TO RELEASE ITS FIRST ORIGINAL DOCUSERIES, FOCUSED ON CHILD CARE IN WASHINGTON, DC**

*Five-part series explores critical challenges in early childhood education in the nation's capital*

Washington, DC – DCTV announced today the release of its first-ever original documentary series, “**Stronger Start: Building Better Child Care.**” The five-part series, produced in partnership with the Bainum Family Foundation, will address a topic that’s critical to families, employers and early childhood education professionals: making child care work better for everyone.

The in-depth series will premiere on DCTV in April as part of “Month of the Young Child.” From the perspective of families, providers, academics, advocates and local leaders across the District, the series explores the challenges facing the child care system in Washington, DC and raises essential questions about how to solve them.

A community town hall to be held Thursday, March 23, will bring together families, early childhood education professionals and policymakers for an engaging discussion on how to provide access to affordable, quality child care for all. The event will include a sneak peek at the series and will be broadcast in April as the introduction to the series. Kojo Nnamdi, the well-known host of multiple long-running radio shows on DC’s WAMU 88.5, will host the event and facilitate the discussion.

“We’re proud to share this documentary series on behalf of families and educators across DC and beyond,” said Nantz Rickard, CEO of DCTV. “We hope it sparks a national conversation about access and affordability of early child care.”

The town hall event will kick off an impact campaign that includes the television series, community outreach, and focus groups that continue the solution-oriented conversation.

The Bainum Family Foundation has supported the well-being of children and families in Washington, DC, and beyond since 1968. It has invested more than \$40 million locally in early childhood supports, services and system improvements over the last seven years.

“Child care is a challenge not just in DC but across the country,” says David Daniels, CEO and President of the Bainum Family Foundation. “What we’ve learned is that the experts most proximate to the pain points are the ones most able to identify practical solutions. We are excited to partner with DCTV on this timely and important documentary series because it will help spur the critical conversation that needs to happen and energize the community to explore new solutions together.”

Washington, DC is celebrated for its pioneering approach to early childhood, having established the nation's most comprehensive universal pre-kindergarten program in 2008. It is the only jurisdiction in the country with publicly funded pre-K that is free for all 3- and 4-year-olds. Yet other urgent needs remain, pushing the system here and nationwide to a crisis point. DC has an overall shortage of child care seats for infants and toddlers and the highest cost of care in the nation, affecting families across the District.

Research shows that universal access to affordable, quality child care improves social outcomes, community resilience, and benefits for life across socioeconomic backgrounds.

For press inquiries and more information, please contact Brendan Bailes, DCTV's Director of Community Engagement, at [bbailles@dctv.org](mailto:bbailles@dctv.org).

***About DCTV:***

DCTV tells stories that matter to help our communities thrive. As Washington, DC's 24/7 public media platform, we amplify local voices that represent the vibrant communities of our nation's capital. We create original content and train individuals and nonprofit organizations to engage people through the power of meaningful storytelling. DCTV reimagines the role of media and sparks relevant, inclusive conversations to build a stronger DC.

***About the Bainum Family Foundation:***

The Bainum Family Foundation is working to create a society where all children thrive. We work alongside communities experiencing racial and economic disparities to create lasting systems change for the well-being of children and families. Founded in 1968 by Stewart Sr. and Jane Bainum, the foundation today focuses on Early Childhood and what children need for a strong start in life. Our Legacy Programs support other issues important to the Bainum family. Visit us at [bainumfdn.org](http://bainumfdn.org).

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