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**Virginia PTA Announces Camelot Elementary PTA as a Local Unit of Excellence
from the 2020-21 School Year**

August 2021 (Richmond, VA) – Virginia PTA is proud to announce that **Camelot Elementary PTA in the Northern Virginia District** has been named a Local Unit of Excellence from the 2020-21 school year.

The **Local Unit of Excellence** award recognizes a Local PTA Unit for their efforts in school, community, and family engagement. Camelot launched many initiatives, including:

- PTA and school staff worked together to open a school food pantry for local families in need due to the rise in pandemic-related unemployment. They raised \$1,400 and distributed nearly 1,500 pounds of food.
- To help families cope with the pandemic, the PTA hosted free, self-help seminars for parents and a weekly kids club to support youth social-emotional needs.
- The PTA hosted monthly meetings via Zoom to keep families and staff engaged.
- The group revamped its website to include a forum for parents to contact each other for resources, to find playgroups, and to arrange carpools and more.
- The team advocated for diversity and inclusion, including partnering with the school to buy \$1,500 worth of cultural books for the classrooms.

“Through its innovative approach, Camelot PTA demonstrates the power of family and community engagement,” said Pam Croom, president of Virginia PTA “By working together with the community, they were able to support children and families at a critical time as well as touch so many lives.”

About Virginia PTA

Virginia PTA is comprised of families, students, teachers, administrators as well as business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth. For more information, visit www.vapta.org.