



Alex Amico from West Potomac HS and Jaelen Gadson from Mount Vernon HS, in solidarity, ask County Supervisors to invest in athletic facilities at both their schools

400 Youth Athletes, Coaches, Parents and Faith Leaders Unify Around Investment in Youth Athletic Facilities & Out-of-School Activities

Last night 400 people from Route 1 and Mount Vernon areas of Fairfax County called on their County Supervisors and Park Authority Board members to improve the fields and recreation opportunities in their neighborhoods. The public action was hosted by VOICE member congregations Bethlehem Baptist Church, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, and VOICE of Mt Vernon (made up of members from St Luke's Episcopal Church, Mt Vernon Unitarian Church and others), and ally organizations West Potomac and Mt Vernon High School Boosters, Bucknell Elementary School PTA, and Sandburg Middle School. Supervisor McKay called it the largest and most unified gathering in the Rt 1 / Mount Vernon area he had seen in his many years in public service!

VOICE got commitments that public officials will work with us to fund our priorities in the impending \$75mil November 2012 Fairfax Park Bond including: \$1.2M for synthetic turf fields at West Potomac & Mount Vernon high schools; \$50,000 to organize a public-private partnership to create a playing field in Audubon, a low-income immigrant community; and planning funding for a low-fee recreation or community center along the Rt 1 Corridor. Also they agreed to improve grassy fields at local parks, to make changes to Fairfax County Connector service to help middle school students get home afterschool, and support us in piloting a robust afterschool program at a local elementary school.

Check out the great media coverage by [WJLA ABC 7 News](#), [Mt Vernon Gazette](#), [Mt Vernon Voice](#), [Ft Hunt & Mt Vernon Patch](#)



Top officials from Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase (left) listened to Wasuu Adedeji (right) testify about his experiences with GE's high cost lending.

VOICE Foreclosure & Subprime Lending Accountability Campaign Produces Results

Eighteen months after launching their Foreclosure & Subprime Lending Accountability campaign; VOICE leaders had lots to celebrate at their June 3rd public action.

To date, VOICE's organizing has secured loan modification reforms from Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase—connecting more than 350 struggling homeowners to a streamlined modification process, won \$363,000 to fund non-profit housing counselors in 2012 (quadrupling housing counselors in the area), documented rampant foreclosure fraud through robo-signing, and initiated negotiations with Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase about VOICE's \$300-\$500 million reinvestment demands with public support from Senator Mark Warner, a member of the US Senate Banking Committee. But there is more work to do.

Read the AP coverage of the action - [Nearly 1,000 Prince William Co. homeowners to get mortgage settlement help](#)

At the action Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase announced that more than 600 underwater households in Prince William are eligible for principal write-downs under the National Mortgage Settlement and that other current and underwater families are eligible for refinancing at reduced rates valued up to \$60million. Both banks and GE Capital agreed to come back for another public action in October 2012 where they will announce how they will meet VOICE's demand to reinvest \$300-500million in Prince William to refinance underwater mortgages, to rebuild homeownership rates, to redevelop blighted properties, and construct affordable rental housing.

VOICE Secures Dental Care Victory & Launches New Seniors Campaign

It might be hot outside, but VOICE has still been hard at work. Late in June we celebrated a major victory on our dental campaign and launched a new campaign by and for seniors.



Victory on Access to Dental Care - June 17th

The Western Fairfax County branch of the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic went understaffed over a year after its opening. The facility had space for 4 dentists to work but because they relied on dentists volunteering their time, only 1 dental chair was in use at any given time.

[Read about Gladys Suarez's unfortunate visit to an unlicensed dentist](#)

In 2012 VOICE congregations in Western Fairfax Cnty organized \$200,000 to fund a full-time dentist at the clinic for two years. They challenged private corporations, Delta Dental, Inova Hospital, Molina Healthcare, Reston Hospital/HCA and the Jon C Burr Fndn, and congregations and individual dentists to match a \$100,000 anonymous gift. VOICE worked with Fairfax Cnty Board of Supervisors Chair Bulova, Hunter Mill Supervisor Hudgins, VA Sen. Howell, and Del. Plum to get to the table with some of the health providers. The full time dentist started July 1, 2012 and will help the clinic do 1,500 more appointments a year, increasing their annual appointments to 5,000.

Check out the press from the [Reston & Great Falls Connection](#) and the [Herndon Patch](#)!

Access to dental care is a core VOICE organizing issue because dental care for adults is not a mandated service in VA's Medicaid program. Approximately 170,000 low-income adults in NOVA lack dental care. Since 2009 VOICE has organized hundreds of these residents and delivered more than half-a-million dollars in new money and stopped \$9mil in state cuts for accessible dental care programs. [Learn more about VOICE's dental victories here.](#)



Seniors Organize in McLean/Falls Church

On June 28th 2012 over 90 seniors from seven congregations (Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Unitarian) gathered at Temple Rodef Shalom to launch their campaign for better senior services in the McLean/Falls Church area.

Leaders who had lived in the community for over forty years spoke about their civic engagement developing activities for their kids and investing in strong schools. Now, the county has not kept pace with the growing needs of seniors. As Sharon Levy said, "We have given a lot to our area. Now is time to do something for ourselves."

"Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone."

Psalm 71

At the action McLean Community Center Programs Director Maggie Shea announced that the community center would add additional classes and lectures for those over 55 starting in January of 2013 and Supervisor Foust committed to making sure the community center got a dedicated staff person for senior programming. Next the seniors campaign leaders will work on affordable and efficient transportation options for seniors.

[Read the article from Washington Jewish Week](#) and our [News Release](#) about the Action