

YOUTH INVESTMENT: RT 1/MT VERNON FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOICE has been training leaders from area faith communities, schools, sports teams and community centers to organize "house meetings," small group listening sessions, to put a face on the urgent need for investment in afterschool activities and better recreation facilities for the Route 1/Mt Vernon area. We know that there is a cost to our families, neighborhoods, schools and faith communities when our children leave school



each day and head to neighborhoods without enough positive things for them to do and when we don't have the caliber of recreation facilities accessible to our youth that we need. Already the Route 1/Mt Vernon leaders along with young people have organized small actions to win: studio space and transportation for a local dance team, a safer location for a West Potomac SHS bus stop, and a fee waiver so the Murraygate Boys and Girls club no longer has to pay to use the MLK pool.

In February 2012, VOICE packed Bethlehem Baptist Church with over 100 parents, youth, teachers, coaches, etc. to report-back from our house meetings and begin to unite around a common agenda. The proposed Youth Investment Campaign will kick off June 11 with a focus on:

- Renovation and Investment in Physical Recreation Space for Youth along Rt 1
- Getting Rt 1/Mt Vernon Projects in the Nov 2012 \$75mil FFX County Park Bond
- Improvements to transportation, outreach, and programming to maximize participation in afterschool activities.
- Increasing Parent Engagement

ARLINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On March 25, 2012 nearly 300 leaders of VOICE Arlington congregations, along with community members gathered at St. Mary's Episcopal Church with the three candidates for an open seat on the Arlington County Board. Those assembled were moved by stories from teachers and service workers, who cannot afford to live in Arlington County,



and heard of the challenges and cost to major employers to hire and retain workers in the face of the dearth of affordable housing. VOICE leaders presented proposals for bold county action — use of public land, quadrupling dedicated revenues — to preserve and develop affordable housing in Arlington County. More importantly, VOICE institutions committed to build the power to carry this message to all of the elected leaders of Arlington and into the fall elections. All three candidates pledged to work with VOICE if elected. VOICE leaders publicly pledged to organize dozens of house meetings, continue the research on available public land and come up with strategies to increase "dedicated revenue" and return in the fall with upwards of 500 people to put their proposals before the entire county board.

Updates on VOICE Local Action – Spring 2012

www.voice-iaf.org

WESTERN FAIRFAX:

Organized People + Organized Money = Power to Deliver Dental Access for Low Income Adults

Buoyed by the success of their 350 person action in January, the VOICE team in Western Fairfax has been hard at work raising the additional money needed to put a full time dentist alongside the volunteer dentists in the Northern VA Dental Clinic in Sterling VA to serve clients in Western Fairfax. With the public support of Senator Janet Howell, Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, and other elected officials VOICE leaders have

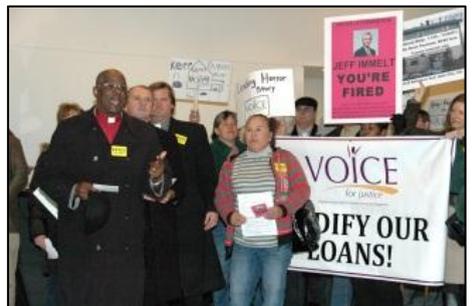


organized 90% of the \$200,000 needed to ensure two years of funding. Private corporations, including Delta Dental, Inova Hospital, Molina Healthcare, Reston Hospital/HCA and the Jon C Burr Foundation, along with congregations and individual dentists, have risen to the challenge to enable the state of the art clinic to serve the thousands of low income adults in Western Fairfax in need of dental care. VOICE congregations, including St. John Neumann, Unitarian Universalist of Reston, Northern VA Hebrew Congregation and Trinity Presbyterian, Herndon are planning a June 17 event to thank & recognize donors and celebrate the hiring of a dentist who will begin seeing patients July 1, 2012!

PRINCE WILLIAM / MANASSAS:

Accountability for the Housing & Foreclosure Crisis

In October 2011, before 1,000 VOICE leaders & Senator Mark Warner, Bank of America & JP Morgan Chase officials pledged to work with VOICE and negotiate seriously about our \$300-\$500 million reinvestment demands to address the housing & foreclosure crisis in Prince William County & Manassas. Since that action, VOICE has:



- Secured \$363,000 – from Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and General Electric –to fund 5 new, non-profit housing counselors, more than doubles the housing counseling capacity in Prince William Area.
- Helped win \$7 Million from the National Mortgage Settlement to the VA Housing Trust Fund for housing counselors and affordable housing investment by organizing with NOVA General Assembly members and publishing an Op-Ed in Richmond Times Dispatch.
- Negotiated with Bank of America & JP Morgan Chase about the effective implementation of the National Mortgage Settlement & about VOICE's \$300-\$500 million reinvestment proposal.
- Secured a face-to-face meeting with GE's CEO Jeff Immelt in May after 75 leaders led a direct action at GE's Washington, DC offices & after working with shareholder allies to secure proxy votes at the 2012 GE Annual Meeting in Detroit, MI.
- Worked with Democratic & Republican public officials – including Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli II and Senator Mark Warner – to ensure meaningful accountability of these financial institutions throughout our negotiating process.