



## 2014 Annual Report

**Virginians Organized for Interfaith  
Community Engagement (VOICE)**

4444 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22204  
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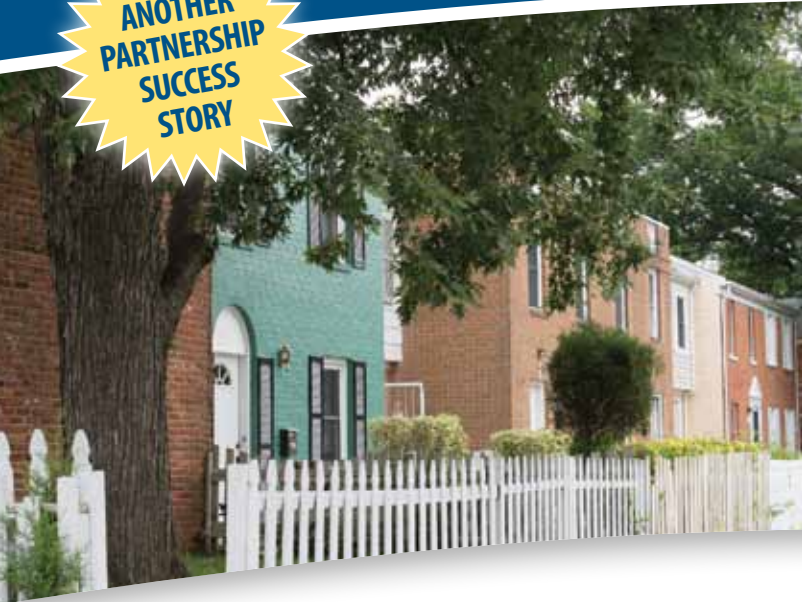
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STORY



As the Georgetown South neighborhood turns 50, we salute the residents, community groups, public servants and civic leaders whose efforts have made this a beautiful, affordable place to live again. VHDA is proud to support this ongoing transformation.

Congratulations, Georgetown South — and may your next 50 years be the best ever.



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## Who is VOICE?



PHOTO: TODD PAROLA

Rev. Tuck Bowerfind leads a prayer with VOICE leaders and financial institution officials at an action for Foreclosure and Bank Accountability.

VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) is a nonpartisan citizens' organization of almost 50 faith and civic institutions in Northern Virginia. We organize to build power and to do justice in middle and low-income communities in Fairfax, and Arlington counties, the cities of Alexandria and Fairfax, and the Prince William area. Uniting people across lines of race, class, religion, political party and geography, we take action on key issues in our communities including, but not limited to, immigration rights, foreclosure accountability, affordable housing preservation and development, and youth investment.

Founded in 2008, VOICE is an independent and nonpartisan organization led by a strategy team of religious, lay, and community leaders from across Northern Virginia. VOICE is funded by dues-paying member institutions (congregations, temples, mosques, union locals, business groups, schools, health centers, etc.), grants from foundations, and generous donations from individuals and businesses.

In the last five years, VOICE has organized and trained thousands of ordinary citizens, winning major victories to address housing code violations at low-income apartment complexes throughout Northern Virginia, to protect tenants from being displaced by upscale development, to secure funding to provide dental services to thousands of low-income adults in NOVA and the Commonwealth, to provide expanded recreation services for low income youth, to help immigrants secure legal status and basic services, and to hold the nation's largest financial institutions accountable for predatory home loans and neighborhood blight.

### VISION

**We believe that people working together have the power to change their communities and their country for the better.**

### NEED

**Political and corporate leaders often don't embrace change unless they're pressured by the people they serve. And too many people don't realize they have the potential to join forces and create change in their neighborhoods through organization.**

### OUR APPROACH

**We work with the people who want to transform the world—from what it is to what they believe it should be. We challenge people to imagine the change they can accomplish, connect individuals and organizations to multiply their power, and organize people by the hundreds and thousands to make their voices heard. We set bold goals, we create effective strategies—and we ACT, taking on the powerful interests that stand in the way.**



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## About the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF)

VOICE is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the nation's first and largest network of multi-faith broad-based citizen organizations, which has seven decades of experience winning tough battles on housing, health care, education, living wages, immigration rights, and other issues across the nation. VOICE works most closely with Metro IAF affiliates in the East, Midwest, and Southeast. In 2014, Metro IAF organizations had great success!



Participants applaud during a large action of an IAF affiliate.

- **Winning more than \$1 billion for school construction and renovation in Baltimore.** It will be the largest investment in Baltimore's neighborhoods in more than 30 years. The effort will result in 15 new schools and more than 30 renovated schools across the city. Nearly 140 of Baltimore City's 162 school facilities are in poor or very poor condition;
- **Forcing New York City Housing Authority to make more than 19,000+ repairs** that affect thousands of low-income tenants citywide. Residents have waited in vain, sometimes for years, for NYCHA to answer requests to clean up toxic mold and fix other housing code violations;
- **Securing Medicaid expansion in Ohio**, which gives an additional 275,000 Ohioans access to health care, working with Governor John Kasich and the Cleveland Clinic and other healthcare providers across the state;
- **Creating a non-profit health care cooperative in SE Wisconsin.** The cooperative has already signed up 27,000 Wisconsinites in the Milwaukee area for health care and began offering care in January 2014;
- **Launching *Do Not Stand Idly By* Anti-Gun Violence Campaign, to use the purchasing power of local, state and federal government agencies to leverage change in the firearms industry.** Metro IAF believes the public agencies that purchase firearms with taxpayer dollars should insist that the makers of those guns become industry leaders in practices that will save lives: bringing state-of-the-art gun safety technologies to market, maintaining a first-rate distribution network that excludes dealers that sell to criminals, assisting law enforcement in fighting gun trafficking, and operating buy-back programs to limit the flow of guns to the "private" market.

To learn more about IAF visit [www.metro-iaf.org](http://www.metro-iaf.org) or [www.industrialareasfoundation.org](http://www.industrialareasfoundation.org)

## Member Organizations, Leadership & Staff

VOICE is governed by 1) a Strategy Team of clergy and lay leaders which sets the strategic direction for the organization and 2) an Action Team of 100+ leaders from the member institutions (2 votes per institution) that discuss, ratify, and implement all VOICE's major campaigns and actions. There are approximately 4-6 Action Team Meetings a year.

### Voice 2014 Strategy Team Members

Serving as VOICE's board of directors, leaders from our member organizations are elected to serve three-year terms on the Strategy Team.

Rev. Tuck Bowerfind*	St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria
Fr. Gerry Creedon	Holy Family Catholic Church, Dale City
Mr. Tammam Dandashi	Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, Falls Church
Mrs. Sharon Danner*	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Triangle
Ms. Jacomina de Regt*	Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Mrs. Ada Johnson	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Alexandria
Rev. Linda Olson-Peebles	Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael*	Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, Burke
Rev. Keith Savage	First Baptist Church of Manassas
Rabbi Jeff Saxe	Temple Rodef Shalom, Falls Church
Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs	Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon
Mr. Mike Wilson*	St. Paul United Methodist Church, Woodbridge

*\* denotes executive board members*

### VOICE Staff

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#### **Martin Paul Trimble**

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#### **Renee Brereton**

*Volunteer Organizer*

*(Reston/Herndon)*

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# VOICE Member Organizations

VOICE is an organization of organizations and membership is open to congregations, temples, mosques, union locals, business groups, schools, health centers, and other institutions that support VOICE's mission to organize for a New Dominion of Justice and Participation in Virginia. VOICE member organizations are the source of the leaders who create and shape our issue campaigns. Each member organization has a Core Team of people who are invested in doing justice and building a relational culture. Core Team members participate in VOICE activities in a variety of ways depending on their interests, talents and passions. Member organizations can call on the VOICE staff to help them develop strategies and to act to address issues within their institutions and their community.

Is your organization interested in joining VOICE? Email us at [voice@voice-iaf.org](mailto:voice@voice-iaf.org) or contact a VOICE organizer for more information.

## 2013-2014 VOICE Member Institutions

### ALEXANDRIA CITY

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection  
Episcopal Diocese of VA Region 4\*  
Grace Episcopal  
Old Presbyterian Meeting House  
St. Joseph Catholic  
St. Paul's Episcopal\*  
Virginia Theological Seminary

### ARLINGTON COUNTY

Arlington Presbyterian  
Faith Lutheran\*  
Macedonia Baptist\*  
Mt Olive Baptist\*  
NOVA Catholic Community  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic  
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic  
St. George's Episcopal\*  
St. Mary's Episcopal  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Arlington

### FAIRFAX COUNTY

Accotink Unitarian Universalist  
Bethlehem Baptist  
Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center  
Fairfax Presbyterian  
Good Shepherd Catholic  
Nativity Catholic  
NOVA Hebrew Congregation  
Rising Hope UMC  
St. John Neumann Catholic  
St. Stephen's UMC  
Temple Rodef Shalom  
Trinity Presbyterian  
Unitarian Universalist of Reston  
Voice of Mt. Vernon

### PRINCE WILLIAM AREA

Bull Run Unitarian Universalist  
Dar AlNoor Islamic Center  
First Baptist Manassas  
First Mt. Zion Baptist  
Georgetown South Comm. Council  
Holy Family Catholic  
Mt. Olive Baptist  
Sacred Heart Catholic  
St. Francis Assisi Catholic  
St. Paul UMC

*\* denotes exploratory members*



◆ Clergy and lay leaders from VOICE and other areas gathered for a three-day training on leadership and grassroots organizing at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

PHOTO: PHYLLISS JOHNSON

# Our 2013-2014 Issue Campaigns & Priorities

Issue campaigns are the public expression of our work. Campaigns emerge from a process that begins with conversations with leaders in our institutions and communities. Energized by a desire to improve the community, leaders organize to research the causes and impact of the problem. In time, the cohesive and expanded group knows the background, defines the issue, and takes action.

## Summary of 2013-2014 Accomplishments

- Organized an army of citizens to challenge big banks guilty of predatory lending to homeowners to re-invest \$30 million dollars to rebuild the Prince William Virginia area.
- Won \$75 million+ in grants to equity restoration funds that rebuild communities blighted by foreclosure in the Department of Justice Bank of America & Citibank settlements.
- Secured \$3 million in county funds to build new athletic fields to serve low and middle-income youth in Southeast Fairfax County.
- Collected 10,350 signatures to support the development of 1,500 units of new affordable housing on public land in Arlington and secured county board agreement to identify public land for this purpose.
- Preserved more than 200 affordable rental-housing units at Crescent Apartments in Reston and Layton Hall in Fairfax City by organizing with tenants.
- Stopped upscale re-development at and the displacement of 240 seniors from Fellowship House in Reston.
- Won a new part-time staff person and Lifetime Learning Program serving seniors at the McLean Community Center.
- Forced River Run Senior Apartments owner in Woodbridge to address housing code violations.

## Working with Youth and Seniors

### Finding Youth a Place to Play Along the Route 1 Corridor

As Route 1 passes through Fairfax County, it is flanked by working class apartments and strip malls. One community in this area, which includes the county's lowest income census tract, is the Audubon Mobile Home Park, the largest manufactured housing community in Northern Virginia with over 700 units. With many immigrant families (predominantly Mexican, Central and South American), Audubon has one of the highest densities of youth and low-income youth in the county.

VOICE has worked with this community for several years to identify its needs and take action. The community's first priority was a place for its children to play. Parents also pointed out that the two local high schools—Mt Vernon and West Potomac—had been unable to raise the funds for artificial turf on their playing fields like the schools in wealthier county neighborhoods.

VOICE organized an unprecedented base of low and middle-income parents, coaches, teachers, and students across race and class. In two years of organizing VOICE won:

- \$3 million in county funds to upgrade the decrepit fields at West Potomac and Mt. Vernon High Schools to 4 new synthetic turf fields;
- A new mini-soccer field for youth at Audubon Mobile Home Park paid for and constructed by the management;
- Improvements to Muddy Hole Park field, including making the field regulation size, lining it and installing goal posts.

VOICE institutions Bethlehem Baptist Church, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, and Voice of Mt Vernon (including leaders from St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Church) led this effort. The team will continue negotiations with County Supervisors Jeff McKay and Gerry Hyland to address continuing issues of safety, security, recreation, and predatory towing in Audubon Mobile Home Park and the success of schools in the Richmond Hwy area.



High School quarterbacks talk about the need for improved fields in their area of Fairfax County.

PHOTO: TODD PAROLA



Youth in Audubon Mobile Home Park play in new gated mini-soccer field.



Youth football coach Ricky Hairston shows needed improvements to athletic field before its renovation.



Mt Vernon High School Principal enjoys new athletic field.

## **Gaining Access to Preschool in Prince William County**

St. Paul United Methodist Church in Woodbridge led an investigation into the shortage of pre-school slots for low-income children in Prince William County. Based on the number of children eligible under federal poverty guidelines, over 1,000 of the county's most vulnerable four-year-olds are not being served. The church found that 1,663 children qualified for preschool education, but the county-operated federally funded Head Start program included only 385 children. A state-

funded program, Virginia's Preschool Initiative, which requires a matching contribution from counties, had only 72 slots (a meager 4 percent of those needed). Leaders from 7 VOICE institutions gathered for a house meeting training and committed to talking with 200 parents/teachers/community members affected by the lack of access to preschool education and then organizing with them to launch a campaign to get Prince William area officials to address this issue.

## **Investing in Seniors in Falls Church and Prince William**

Leaders at Temple Rodef Shalom (TRS) established a partnership with the Falls Church Community Center and Marymount University to offer classes for retirees in the 2013/14 academic year, filling a major gap identified through the VOICE/TRS Senior Organizing Campaign: *Aging Up*. Classes included *Great Books* discussions and workshops taught by Marymount professors on practical issues facing seniors such as aging safely and comfortably in your home, getting the most from your medical visits, exercising to reduce the risk of falls, getting along with your adult children, and using video games to improve mental and physical fitness.

The VOICE/TRS Aging Up organizing also resulted in a new part-time staff person and Lifetime Learning program for participants age 55-plus at the McLean Community Center. Programming includes classes, lectures, outings, discussions, and social opportunities.

VOICE also worked with residents of River Run Senior Apartments in Woodbridge and Prince William County to get a surprise building inspection that required an absentee owner to fix hazardous fire code violations and to address long-neglected maintenance problems.



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## Banks Accountability & Anti-Foreclosure Campaign Prince William County

VOICE has organized for the last 24 months to hold 3 financial institutions (Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, & General Electric) accountable for the foreclosure crisis in Prince William County, VA. Prince William County had over 27,000 foreclosures, the highest in Virginia.

In June 2013, VOICE secured \$30+ million in commitments for VOICE's Prince William Restoration Fund from Bank of America, General Electric, and VA Housing Development Authority. Over the next 15 years, the fund will:

- Rehab 200-300 abandoned / blighted properties in neighborhoods devastated by foreclosure for affordable homeownership & rental housing;
- Buy back homes with distressed loans in danger of foreclosure & issue new mortgages based on the current market value of the homes, lowering families' payments substantially, thereby keeping them in their homes;
- Develop 200-300 units of new Nehemiah homeownership housing for families that lost their homes to foreclosure, have rebuilt their credit, and want a second shot at the American dream;
- Develop 1,500 units of rental housing in Prince William County & Northern Virginia to provide relief for families who lost their homes to foreclosure and who are now paying more than 50% of their income in rent. Families are sacrificing medical and food bills to pay their rent.

When JP Morgan Chase, the worst predatory lender in Prince William, refused to follow the lead of the other banks, VOICE organized investor allies—United Methodist Pension Fund, Unitarian Universalist Association, Bon Secours Health System, American Baptist Home Missions Society, the Sister of St. Francis, and Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, to assign their JP Morgan proxy shares to 25 VOICE and Metro IAF clergy and lay leaders to confront JP Morgan CEO



Rev. Keith Savage, VOICE Clergy Leader and 75 VOICE Prince William County leaders, outside JP Morgan's DC Private Wealth Banking Offices decried JP Morgan Chase's refusal to reinvest \$10 million to address the foreclosure crisis in Prince William County.

Jamie Dimon at the company's May 2014 annual meeting. As a result, VOICE leaders met with JP Morgan Mortgage Bank CEO Kevin Watters in September 2014 to attempt to resolve the impasse. Working with Sen. Mark Warner, VOICE secured a victory to allow JP Morgan to receive \$1:\$1 credit to make a \$10 million investment in Prince William to fulfill its obligations to the Department of Justice under its \$13 billion settlement for issuing toxic mortgage-backed securities. VOICE is continuing to work on this issue in late 2014. VOICE's pioneering work received national media coverage by *USA Today*, *CNN*, and the *Washington Post*.

Through its Prince William Foreclosure and Bank Accountability Campaign organizing, VOICE has won over the last two years:

- \$1.67 million for non-profit housing counselors in Prince William; 900+ Families Secured Loan Modifications;
- More than \$120+ million in principal and debt reduction through the National Mortgage Settlement;
- \$30+ million committed for neighborhood stabilization & affordable housing as well as \$10 million to incentivize non-profit development;
- Commitment for a pilot "credit restoration" and new mortgage loan program for 2,500 families who lost their homes during the housing crisis;
- \$8 million for VA Housing Trust Fund.

## Foreclosure & Bank Accountability Campaign Timeline

**APRIL 10, 2011** Foreclosure Accountability Campaign launched with 250 VOICE leaders in Georgetown South in Manassas.

**JULY 26–30, 2011** More than 200 Prince William families attend VOICE / Bank of America Mortgage Modification Event where families can receive answers on site.

**OCTOBER 30, 2011** 1,000 VOICE leaders & Sen. Mark Warner hear Bank of America & JP Morgan Chase commit to fund housing counselors & to negotiate seriously about VOICE's \$300-500 million reinvestment proposal.

**APRIL 25, 2012** VOICE leaders attend GE's Annual Meeting in Detroit, MI.

**JUNE 3, 2012** Bank of America & JP Morgan Chase commit before 600 VOICE leaders to working towards an agreement by October 2012 about the proposed VOICE \$300-500 million reinvestment proposal. GE agrees for first time to negotiate seriously.

**OCTOBER 17, 2012** GE CEO Jeff Immelt commits to \$5 million investment in affordable housing, more investment in housing counselors at a meeting with VOICE leaders in Fairfield, CT.

**JUNE 3, 2013** With 500 VOICE leaders, Bank of America, GE, and VA state housing finance agency commit \$30 million in capital to VOICE's Prince William County revitalization fund. Sen. Warner, Bank of America, & GE praise the plan & partners as good business. JPMorgan asks for more time in last minute negotiation.

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2013** VOICE citizen investigators release report about JPMorgan's credit card robo-signing & present 1st copy to CFPB Director Cordray. Days later, VOICE meets with Fed Board Gov. Raskin & OCC Comptroller Curry to push for JPMorgan Accountability. March 2014: OCC Comptroller Curry tours Metro IAF East Baltimore revitalization.

**MAY 20, 2014** 25 VOICE leaders & investor allies attend JPMorgan annual meeting in Tampa, FL, & challenge CEO Dimon to fulfill his commitment to do what is "right and just" for Prince William County & Manassas.

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2014** After organizing from VOICE, VA AG Herring announces \$1.15 billion lawsuit against major banks including JPMorgan.

**MAY 11, 2011** Rev. Clyde Ellis challenges Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan at Annual Shareholders' Meeting in Charlotte. Moynihan commits to "mak[ing] things right" in Prince William County.

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2011** 100 VOICE Citizen Investigators release their report about rampant robo-signing in the Prince William area at press conference at Prince County Courthouse in Manassas.

**MARCH 6, 2012** 100 VOICE leaders deliver "pink slips" & fire GE CEO Jeff Immelt from White House Jobs Council at GE's DC offices.

**MAY 14, 2012** A small team of VOICE leaders meets with GE CEO Jeff Immelt in Washington, DC.

**OCTOBER 1, 2012** Bank of America announces \$20 million in affordable housing investment & \$50 million in principal & debt reduction in front of 850 VOICE leaders, key VA Delegates Lingamfelter & Anderson, US Sen. Mark Warner, & US HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan.

**NOVEMBER 21, 2012** After VOICE meets with COO Bisagnano & CEO Dimon, JPMorgan commits \$864,000 for housing counselors & agrees in principle to VOICE housing investment.

**JUNE 20, 2013** After two weeks, JPMorgan says "no" to VOICE's demand to reinvest \$10 million in Prince William County. 75 VOICE leaders deliver photos of JPMorgan vacant homes to bank's private wealth offices in DC. VOICE delivers letters to OCC, CFPB, & Fed about JPMorgan's business practices.

**NOVEMBER 19, 2013** After advocacy from VOICE, Senator Warner & allies, DOJ includes \$1:\$1 credit to JPMorgan for grants to "community equity restoration funds" in \$13 billion global settlement with JPMorgan to allow investment in VOICE's plan. (VOICE advocacy throughout 2014 leads to \$75 million in mandatory CD grants in DOJ settlements with Citi & BofA.)

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2014** VOICE leaders meet JPMorgan Mortgage Bank CEO Kevin Watters in NYC. VOICE offers final compromise, challenging JPMorgan to match philanthropic monies raised by VOICE (up to \$10 million).



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*Church Contact Information:*

13111 Telegraph Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

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\*Source: Nat'l Association of Home Builders Administration  
([http://www.nahb.org/fileUpload\\_details.aspx?contentID=167667](http://www.nahb.org/fileUpload_details.aspx?contentID=167667), p3)

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Community Development



## Working for Affordable Housing

Northern Virginia is one of the fastest-developing areas in the Washington D.C. metro area. As the housing market recovers, affordable apartments are being replaced with luxury apartments and working families are being forced further from their jobs and the communities and schools they love. These pressures are most acute inside the Beltway in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax, and near Metro stops. VOICE is organizing with tenants in these areas to address housing code and quality of life issues in apartment complexes, to prevent developers from displacing their communities with upscale development and to push local governments to finance and build more affordable housing.

### Public Land for Public Good in Arlington

VOICE won a unanimous vote by the Arlington County Board on a policy to use public land for affordable housing—a breakthrough without precedent. This vote followed presentation of a VOICE petition with over 10,000 signatures and a 550-person rally in support of the proposal. The county manager has identified 24 county-owned sites with potential for affordable housing.

### Keeping Crescent Apartments Affordable in Herndon and Reston

VOICE organized a 250-person “One Reston Walk” at which VOICE leaders and Crescent Apartments tenants got Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Sharon Bulova and Supervisor Cathy Hudgins to support the low-income tenants’ goal of returning 100% of the residents to the redeveloped complex. The 50-year-old 184-unit apartment building had been bought by the county and sold to a developer to create a 935-unit complex overlooking Lake Ann and close to a new metro station.

The county said it required that 332 of the new units be rented at below market rates as workforce housing, but residents and local clergy were skeptical because the county did not tell residents when it sold the building and because the income-level requirement was too high for current residents.

VOICE area congregations led by Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston developed relationships with the



Backed up by clergy, VOICE Leader Florence Dale (front left) asks Arlington Board Chair Tejada (front right) for his support building affordable housing on public land in Arlington.

VOICE continues to press the board for a timetable to build 1,500 new units affordable for persons earning less than \$50,000 (50 percent of area median income) in the next five years, for increased funding for the Affordable Housing Investment Fund, and for fast-track implementation of affordable housing development proposals by non-profits through the snail-paced county approval processes.



Over 250 people attended the One Reston March emphasizing the importance of preserving affordable housing at Crescent Apartments.

184 immigrant families from Crescent to leverage a commitment from Fairfax County to preserve Crescent’s affordable housing in line with Reston’s founding principles to build and preserve an open community that welcomes racial and income diversity.

The team is currently working with the Crescent developer to secure the funding required from Fairfax County to keep the new Crescent affordable to all current residents, as pledged by County Supervisors.

## Getting Lake Anne Fellowship House Seniors Affordable Housing in Reston

As Reston develops in response to a new Metro line, seniors who have lived in the area for decades are being priced out. Lake Anne Fellowship House, constructed in the 1970's, has 240 affordable senior apartments. A proposal to sell the property to construct 245 high-end apartments would replace the current 240 senior units with only 140 senior units (a loss of 100 units). VOICE organized residents who speak 11 languages, many of whom have lived at Lake Anne for almost 20 years. Residents wanted access for affordable housing and to ensure the diverse community they built across many ethnic groups and backgrounds is not broken up. VOICE helped tenants get a successful outcome. On October 22, residents were given a guarantee that 240 affordable units will be preserved. To secure this outcome, residents conducted meetings of over 100 residents with translation into Chinese,

## Keeping Layton Hall and Oak Knolls Apartments Affordable in Fairfax City

In the next couple years the city council in the small city of Fairfax will hear proposals to develop up to 3,000 new units of housing. If these proposals for luxury apartments and condominiums are passed without affordable housing requirements, there will be less than 200 units of affordable housing left for a city with over 1,300 families earning under 50% of Area Median Income.

In 2013 VOICE helped launch an affordable housing campaign with non-profits in the area to raise awareness about this critical moment in the city's development. We successfully organized with Layton Hall Apartments tenants to get the city council to require the developer to increase relocation assistance and make 5 percent of the redeveloped units affordable. This was the first time Fairfax City ever imposed an affordable housing requirement on a developer and led to a statement about affordable housing being written into the city's master plan.



Korean American seniors from Lake Anne Fellowship House hold a meeting to get organized.

Korean, & Farsi. The residents built relationships with local congregations and civic groups and held research actions with HUD & VHDA. Seniors are seeking the support of elected officials to support a HUD demonstration program for Lake Anne Fellowship House that would provide affordable housing over the coming 15 years. Should new construction be developed, residents will be at the decision making table.



Lisa Whetzel, Fairfax City resident, asks Council Member Meyer about his commitment to affordable housing.

In 2014, VOICE expanded our organizing into Oak Knoll Apartments, another working class community proposed for redevelopment. Our goal is to secure one-for-one replacement of 220 affordable housing units. VOICE member congregations Fairfax Presbyterian, Accotink Unitarian Universalist, Nativity Catholic are driving this campaign and have built an impressive coalition with over 8 congregations, the largest local employer, the Fairfax Education Association and many local social service organizations.

## Working for Affordable Housing (Continued)

### Organizing Public Housing Residents in Alexandria City

For decades many residents of Alexandria have complained that city policies are leading to the gentrification of historically working class and African American areas of the city. For example, in the 1950s & '60s, the City used eminent domain to acquire land owned by African Americans for urban renewal projects. In the 1980s two Metro stations were built on historically African American neighborhoods, which included demolishing historically African American schools. And in the last 30 years over 300 units of public housing have been torn down and replaced elsewhere in the city.

In February 2014, the Alexandria housing authority proposed a major redevelopment of over 500 public housing units across 15 acres of public land – by far the largest redevelopment ever proposed by the housing authority. VOICE Alexandria leaders are organizing a broad base of public housing residents, congregations, and organizations in Alexandria to ensure that tenants are at the table during the redevelopment, that jobs for



Public Housing Redevelopment Sites in Alexandria, VA

public housing tenants are produced, that the public land will be used for affordable housing, that all units are replaced in their historic community and that all residents will be able to return.

#### 2014 PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT SITES

1. Hopkins Tancil Ct Apts – 111 units
2. Housing Authority Office
3. Ladrey Building (Seniors & Disabled) – 170 units
4. Samuel Madden Apts – 66 units
5. Andrew Adkins Apts – 90 units
6. Jefferson Village Apts – 69 units
7. Cameron Valley Apts – 40 units

#### RECENT REDEVELOPMENTS

- A. 2001 Berg Public Housing Redevelopment into Chatham Square – 48 public housing units dispersed, 100 new townhomes built
- B. 2009-13 Uptown Public Housing Redevelopment into Old Town Commons – 60 public housing units dispersed, 245 new townhomes built
- C. 1987-88 Cameron Valley Public Housing Redevelopment into Quaker Hill – 204 public housing units dispersed, 245 new townhomes built

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## Developing Immigrant Leaders

After being founded during a harsh anti-immigrant period in many parts of Northern Virginia, VOICE continues to invest in developing leadership within immigrant communities to 1) act locally on issues that affect immigrant communities (affordable housing, wages, youth investment, etc.) and 2) develop power to address state and national issues like immigration reform, college access, and driver's licenses. Over the last three years, VOICE organized with immigrant communities to:

- Hold landlords accountable to fix over 1,000 housing code violations in two Fairfax County properties in Falls Church and South Rt. 1 area,
- Organize 1,500 religious and immigrant leaders to attend the Spring 2010 Immigration Reform rally in Washington DC and subsequent follow-up actions to support immigrant youth demanding rights to attend college during 2010;
- Secure \$300,000 in annual funding to support reduced or free dental care for low-income adults in Fairfax, Alexandria, Arlington, and Prince William—many of whom are low income immigrants;
- Organize to hold the US Department of Homeland Security accountable for the timely processing of green card, work permit, citizenship, and asylum applications from 100 Muslim leaders at Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church and 100 African Christian leaders at St. Anthony's Parish in Falls Church;
- Organize with immigrant parents and youth in the 800-unit Audubon Mobile Home Park to secure youth recreation opportunities and facilities.
- Secure operations changes at the VA Dept. of Motor Vehicles to help legal immigrants obtain drivers licenses more easily.



PHOTO: MARY PADEN

(R-L) Carla Claire, Katie Esser, and Sabino Peña from Good Shepherd Catholic Church and Audubon Mobile Home Park speak at an immigrant-led action.

VOICE now has three bilingual associate organizers that speak English, Spanish and French. In 2014 VOICE held three Spanish language trainings teaching grassroots organizing and leadership skills in many of our leaders' native language. Immigrant leaders from Arlington, Prince William County, and Fairfax County have since led house meetings with other immigrants in their institutions and communities, talking with people about their concerns. In Prince William County, leaders are investigating the issues of access to safe public play space. In Arlington immigrants from an affordable housing complex are leading a campaign for better safety at their neighborhood intersection. And after sending over 450 leaders from seven institutions to attend a national immigration rally, in Spring 2013, VOICE religious, business, and education leaders met with Senator Mark Warner (D), Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA10), and Rep. Robert Wittman (R-VA1) to urge their support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.



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Columbia Grove Apartment residents confront Arlington County Director of Department of Transportation about the need for a traffic light at dangerous intersection.

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--Marsha Rhea, President, Signature i, LLC

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**Jessica Sarriot,**  
**VOICE employee;**

EMU 2011 with a major  
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(Photo by Joan Britt)



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(as of October 15, 2014).

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Members of VOICE have been working hard, but we have the potential and the power to do much more. Please consider joining or donating to VOICE so that we can continue to transform hope into action.

Your tax-deductible gift will support all the important work of VOICE. Consider a recurring gift in installments every month. You can mail your contribution using the envelope provided, or give online at [www.voice-iaf.org/donations](http://www.voice-iaf.org/donations)

Thank you for considering a contribution so that VOICE can continue to create change we can see.

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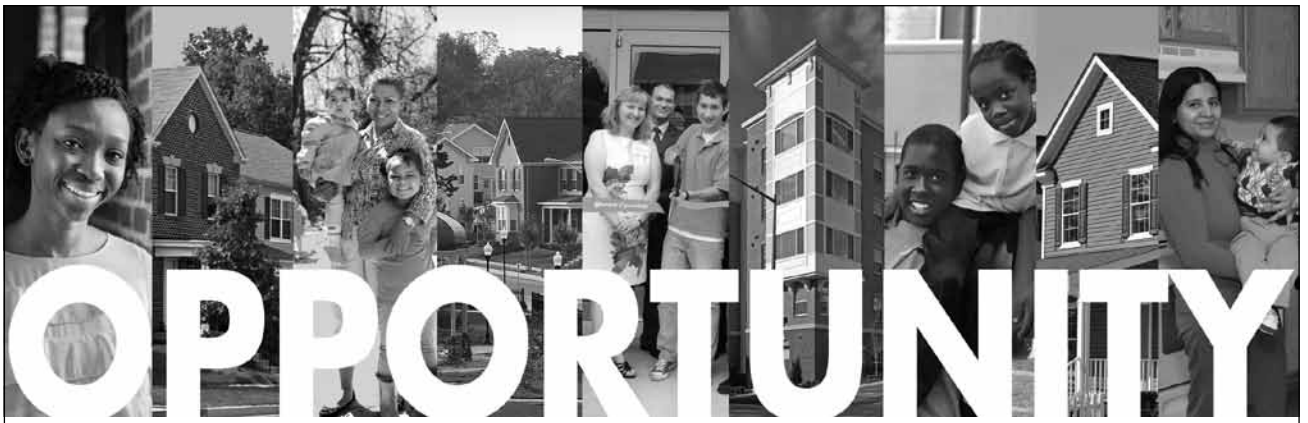
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# VOICE FINANCES | 2013 Audit Summary

VOICE is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code and is a registered charitable organization with the Commonwealth of Virginia. VOICE is funded by dues from member organizations and donations from individuals, religious institutions, businesses as well as foundations. The current \$498,000 annual budget pays four professional organizers who guide and serve the member organizations on making change on community issues that members have identified. The budget also funds the training of over 250 volunteers each year and covers expenses associated with operating the issue campaigns. VOICE does not accept government funds so that it can remain autonomous and politically independent and non-partisan. VOICE completes an audit and files IRS Form 990 annually, copies of which may be obtained upon request. A summary of VOICE's 2013 audit prepared by Bert Smith & Co., CPA is below:

## Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2013

	2013	2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 300,242	\$ 217,681
Contributions Receivable	5,195	19,575
Dues Receivable	19,000	4,500
Prepaid Expenses	4,792	4,244
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 329,229</b>	<b>\$ 246,000</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	-	5,563
Due to Washington Interfaith Network	49,573	36,884
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>49,573</b>	<b>42,447</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	254,896	180,993
Temporarily Restricted	24,760	22,560
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>279,656</b>	<b>203,553</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 329,229</b>	<b>\$ 246,000</b>

## Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2013	2012
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>				
Membership Dues	\$ 201,832	\$ -	\$ 201,832	\$ 223,319
Contributions	377,017	8,200	385,217	282,927
Fees	8,416	-	8,416	2,160
Interest Income	433		433	434
Contributed Income	2,400		2,400	2,400
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS:</b>				
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>596,098</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>598,298</b>	<b>511,240</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services	476,857		476,857	444,492
Fundraising	13,588		13,588	13,289
Management and General	31,750		31,750	17,606
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>522,195</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>522,195</b>	<b>475,387</b>
<b>Changes in Net Assets</b>	<b>73,903</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>76,103</b>	<b>35,853</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>180,993</b>	<b>22,560</b>	<b>203,553</b>	<b>167,700</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>254,896</b>	<b>24,760</b>	<b>279,656</b>	<b>203,553</b>




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