

From: "PICO National Network" <news@piconetwork.org>

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PICO Network News

PICO National Network | *Unlocking the Power of People™*

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

GOOD SCHOOLS

[Study finds PICO organizing linked to student achievement](#)

The Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University just released a study showing that sophisticated grassroots community organizing produces major improvements in student achievement. Researchers followed organizing initiatives over six years in seven major U.S. cities, including two PICO federations – [Eastern Pennsylvania Organizing Project](#) (EPOP) in Philadelphia and [Oakland Community Organizations](#) (OCO). [Read more about PICO organizing's impact on student achievement >>](#)

[Community calls for action on dropout rate in San Jose](#)

Over the past month, PICO affiliate [PACT: People Acting in Community Together](#) in San Jose organized two town hall meetings focused on the connection between the rise in crime and violence in the city and its low-performing public schools. More than 750 people came together to ask Trustees of the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Supervisor candidates to make addressing the rising dropout rate a priority. [Read more about PACT's efforts to decrease dropout rates >>](#)

HEALTHY FAMILIES

[Florida leaders urge Governor to cover all kids](#)

On March 27-28, leaders from PICO affiliate [Federation of Congregations United to Serve](#) (FOCUS) in Orlando traveled to the state capital to meet with legislators to urge them to make key improvements to Florida's child health insurance program, KidCare. FOCUS leaders met with both Democratic and Republican legislators over the two days, urging them to increase funding for the program, streamline the application process, reduce bureaucratic obstacles, and improve outreach efforts. [Read more about how Florida plans to cover all kids >>](#)

[Leaders lay out "healthy communities" vision for Missouri](#)

On April 3, over 200 community members from PICO affiliate [Communities Creating Opportunity](#) (CCO) in Kansas City, Missouri attended a town hall meeting with state legislators to lay out their vision to expand health coverage and limit predatory lending practices across the state. CCO asked legislators to commit to providing funding for health care coverage for all low-income working parents who earn at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, and for all Missouri children by 2010. [Read more about CCO's healthy communities vision >>](#)

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

[Mass. leaders push for increased youth violence prevention funding](#)

On Monday, March 31, more than 250 people from throughout Massachusetts rallied at the State House to call on legislators to increase youth violence prevention and intervention funding. PICO affiliate [Massachusetts Communities Action Network](#) (MCAN), together with the Safe Teens/Safe Communities Coalition and Metro Mayors Coalition, organized the rally and lobby day to mark the beginning of National Youth Violence Prevention Week. [Read more about MCAN's work to increase funding by \\$23 million >>](#)

[1,300 gather to launch San Diego's "Year of the Youth" campaign](#)

On Sunday, March 9, the [San Diego Organizing Project](#) (SDOP) organized a massive rally to kick off its "Year of the Youth" campaign. Over 1,300 community members packed St. Jude Shrine of the West Catholic Church, joining representatives from Congress, the county, the city of San Diego, social service agencies, labor organizations, and the business community to promote policies to make San Diego a better, safer place for youth. [Read more about the rally and SDOP's plan for 2008 >>](#)

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

[Oakland residents come together to support Mayor's housing plan](#)

More than 300 community members filled the pews at Imani Community Church to hear Oakland Vice Mayor Henry Chang answer tough questions on his views on affordable housing. [Oakland Community Organizations](#) (OCO) and ACORN organized the March 5th event attended by Chang and City Councilmember Jean Quan, who has been a supporter of affordable housing. [Read more about what the Vice Mayor said about affordable housing >>](#)

JOBS

[PICO launches new job board on website](#)

Visitors to PICO's careers page can now search for jobs, submit their resumes online, and sign up to receive future job announcements. Visit www.piconetwork.org/ab_careers.html and sign up to receive regular updates on jobs in PICO.

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PICO National Network 171 Santa Rosa Avenue, Oakland, California 94610 510 655 4816

www.piconetwork.org