

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

Subject: PICO Network News - March 5, 2008



PICO Network News

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

Thursday, March 6, 2008

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

[Youth leaders press Sacramento to address California dropout crisis](#)

On February 25, 250 youth and adult leaders from 17 PICO organizations across California met with top state officials to address the state's dropout crisis, beginning with fully funding a new student data system to track the problem. In an historic step for [PICO California](#), 130 youth leaders were the driving force behind the meetings, which also focused on small schools and youth violence prevention. [Read more >>](#)

[Youth lead Get Out the Vote efforts](#)

Over the weekends of January 25-26 and February 2-3, 170 youth leaders from PICO affiliates in Sacramento and San Bernardino went knocking on the doors of infrequent voters urging them to vote in the California presidential primary. Youth leaders from [Sacramento Area Congregations Together](#) (ACT) and [Inland Congregations United for Change](#) (ICUC) in San Bernardino knocked on the doors of more than 3,000 California voters. The majority of youth who participated were under the voting age of 18. [Read more >>](#)

HEALTHY FAMILIES

[Colorado leaders aim to cover all kids by 2010](#)

Following two days of rallies and public events kicking off a campaign to cover all children in Colorado by 2010, Governor Bill Ritter announced his support for \$25 million in funding this year to expand eligibility and reduce enrollment barriers for uninsured children. [Metro Organizations for People](#) (MOP) and key child health advocacy groups are planning a broad state-wide campaign to press Colorado, which has one of the highest rates of uninsured children in the nation, to ultimately cover all children. [Read more >>](#)

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Burlington holds developer accountable for affordable housing

[Vermont Interfaith Action](#) (VIA) brought together nearly 300 people to voice their concerns to Mayor Bob Kiss and other city officials about the absence of affordable housing at the Westlake development overlooking Lake Champlain in Burlington. Those who attended the February 10 meeting at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul had a clear view through the church's windows of the gaping hole next to the parking lot where the developer originally agreed to build affordable housing. [Read more >>](#)

PICO organizations in FL, MA, CA, and MO help homeowners deal with foreclosures

In January and February, [Communities Creating Opportunity](#) (CCO) in Kansas City worked with Senator Claire McCaskill to discuss her response to the foreclosure crisis and engage affected homeowners and community leaders around the issue. PICO affiliates in Florida, Massachusetts, California, and Missouri have been taking steps to help homeowners in danger of losing their homes as a result of subprime predatory lending. [Read more >>](#)

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Unitarian church pushes for "green collar" jobs in San Jose

On February 25, 300 community members and leaders from [People Acting in Community Together](#) (PACT) gathered at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose to challenge Mayor Chuck Reed to include low and moderate income residents in the City's ambitious Green Vision. Until this time, the Mayor had been focused exclusively on engaging corporations, businesses and more affluent community members in his environmental initiatives. [Read more >>](#)

IMMIGRATION

Over 100 attend citizenship drive in Redwood City

As part of the new PICO Bay Area Citizenship and Civic Engagement campaign, [Peninsula Interfaith Action](#) (PIA) held a "Citizenship Day" on February 23. More than 100 people seeking assistance with citizenship applications and other immigration-related matters attended the free workshop held at El Buen Pastor Church in Redwood City. In preparation for the workshop, PIA trained 60 people from their congregations and local nonprofits to help community members understand and negotiate the very detailed and challenging N-400 citizenship application. [Read more >>](#)

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

Taking a comprehensive approach to reducing youth violence

In June 2007, 17 year-old Biniam Yifru was killed while attending a high school graduation party in Union City, CA. Yifru's death sent a shock wave through the community, activating members of [Congregations Organizing for Renewal](#) (COR) to take action. Over the past eight months, leaders from COR have teamed up with youth advocate organizations to work with Union City city and school district officials to implement new strategies to reduce the city's level of youth violence. [Read more >>](#)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

[Organizations unite to form Brooklyn Congregations United](#)

On Sunday, March 2, PICO affiliate [Brooklyn Congregations United](#) (BCU) celebrated its First Annual General Assembly. Over 400 community members from across Brooklyn packed Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church for an afternoon of community building, fellowship and live entertainment. The event marked the joining together of two PICO organizations, Community Action Project and Southwest Brooklyn Congregations, and honored their past successes. [Read more >>](#)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

[Leader from Brooklyn synagogue reflects on experience at PICO National Training](#)

For Steven Flax from Brooklyn Congregations United (BCU) in New York City, his recent trip to Louisiana to attend PICO National Training offered him a chance to not only learn more about the art of PICO organizing, but to experience in a new way the power of building relationships across faith traditions. [Read more >>](#)

JOBS

[PICO federations in NY, LA, CA, MA, and more have job openings](#)

Visit www.piconetwork.org/ab_careers.html to see current jobs and learn more about working in the PICO network.

DONATE

[PICO needs your financial support](#)

PICO's success in empowering families and improving communities depends on financial contributions from our donors. To help support our work on the issues you've read about in this issue of e-news and others, click [here](#) to make an on-line donation.

[See past issues of PICO Network News >>](#)

This message was sent to tim.lilienthal@gmail.com. Visit your [subscription management page](#) to modify your email communication preferences or update your personal profile. To stop ALL email from PICO National Network, click to [remove](#) yourself from our lists (or reply via email with "remove or unsubscribe" in the subject line).

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Sign up for PICO News](#)

[Update your subscriber information](#)

[ABOUT PICO](#) | [NEW VOICES CAMPAIGN](#) | [PICO ISSUES](#) | [SUPPORT PICO](#) | [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

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

www.piconetwork.org