



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

## **VOICE – Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement – Asks for Your Financial Support May 6 – 12**

Normally, as your UUCA VOICE leaders, we are busy in communities actively doing racial and social justice work: listening to people, developing relationships, researching issues, and organizing action. This week, we pause to ask for your generous support for VOICE – either in the plate offering on Sunday or online throughout the following week.

Make your check payable to UUCA with “Offering” in the memo line. Donate online at <http://www.uucava.org/giving/>. Click on “Donate,” then “Share The Plate.”



**Celebrating 10 Years of  
UUCA Membership**

- **HUNDREDS of UUCA Members**
- **THOUSANDS of Lives Touched**
- **MILLIONS of Dollars Invested**

Visit the VOICE table in the Fellowship Hall after service. To learn more about VOICE, please contact either Pat Findikoglu at [patfindikoglu@gmail.com](mailto:patfindikoglu@gmail.com), 703-975-8292, or Kate Trygstad at [kate@creativefacilitating.com](mailto:kate@creativefacilitating.com), 703-887-1978.

### **Why VOICE? Why Now?**

VOICE organizes people to help them realize and assert their political power, to demand a voice in community decision-making and civic governance. Such grass-roots civic activism is sorely needed in a world where powerful monied interests skew government and corporate help away from the people who need it most.

Yet, VOICE is strictly non-partisan. VOICE works across political, religious, racial and socio-economic lines to bring more dignity and greater opportunity to an ever-widening circle of society.

VOICE models a restorative civic conversation of inclusivity and respect.

VOICE reminds communities and the nation that, under our constitution, "We the People" have covenanted with one another to care for all. It is our birthright to organize, to build power, to participate in our self-governance.

### **VOICE and UUCA**

UUCA is a member congregation of VOICE, a coalition of 50 mostly faith congregations in Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington counties, and Alexandria. With a combined membership of 180,000 households, VOICE has the constituent power necessary to draw government and corporate attention to the plight of low-income, immigrant and otherwise marginalized people.

UUCA was instrumental in the founding of VOICE in 2008 and continues to be one of the most active member institutions. UUCA hosts many VOICE activities and UUCA representation at a public action is typically 10% of the total attendance. Strong UUCA support for VOICE, both in people and financial support, expresses the congregation's commitment to social justice ministry and allyship with racial, religious and multi-cultural diversity.

### **Sampling of VOICE Victories**

- ✓ Met with Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam to help win increase in felony level to \$500 and dedicated WMATA (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority) funding
- ✓ Held Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and General Electric accountable for the foreclosure crisis in Prince William County — resulting in \$250 million in principal reduction, more than 1,500 loan modifications, and \$30 million in reinvestment capital to rebuild blighted communities
- ✓ Won \$100,000/year to provide dental care for low-income adults in Northern Virginia and preserved \$6 million in state funding for dental care for low-income families statewide
- ✓ Pressured Arlington County to maintain annual funding for its Affordable Housing Master Plan
- ✓ Secured needed bus service from the west end of Columbia Pike to Arlington Depart. Human Services
- ✓ Won \$4 million from Alexandria for a 113-unit affordable housing development at VOICE member, Church of the Resurrection
- ✓ Supported Islamic faith centers and Muslim communities in the face of hate and anti-immigrant attacks
- ✓ Secured commitments from Prince William and Fairfax school superintendents to accommodate the religious observances of Jewish and Muslim students
- ✓ Secured \$3 million to renovate local parks and athletic facilities for low-income African American and immigrant residents in southern Fairfax County
- ✓ Won \$10 million to expand pre-kindergarten to serve 576 low-income children in Prince William County
- ✓ Increased voter participation by 24 -39% in four historically low-turnout-districts through non-partisan Get Out the Vote campaign.
- ✓ Won victories furthering the development and preservation of thousands of affordable rental housing units throughout Northern Virginia