

## **Credential 2008**

Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) is a federation of thirty congregations organized to assist neighborhoods, congregations, organizations and schools as they seek to improve the quality of life for families on the San Francisco Peninsula. Founded in early 1997, PIA represents 19,000 households of diverse racial, ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds. Rooted in the shared values of our democratic and faith traditions, PIA works to transform our communities by building relationships, empowering congregations, developing leaders, and strengthening neighborhoods.

We act together to address multiple issues of common concern such as affordable housing, education, health care, economic development, community safety, and transportation. We build our organization through extensive one-to-one interviewing in our communities and intensive training and development of leaders. We fulfill our mission through participatory research on issues and nonpartisan action in the public arena.

### **PIA has had a remarkable public impact, including:**

- organizing with a statewide collaborative to provide health insurance to all children in California
- preserving health care access for low-income San Mateo County residents through saving the Health Plan of San Mateo
- launching an affordable housing trust fund for San Mateo County and garnering millions of dollars for the Santa Clara County Housing Trust
- increasing the number of cities in San Mateo County that are contributing to the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) of San Mateo County
- preventing the closure of an elementary school in Mountain View serving the poorest immigrant families
- creating a below market-rate ordinance and a jobs-housing impact fee ordinance in Mountain View
- preserving, or creating funding for, affordable housing in Pacifica, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, and San Mateo.
- forging a private/public collaborative which built the Opportunity Center for homeless in Palo Alto, which includes 89 housing units
- creating and passing a parcel tax in East Palo Alto that will raise \$1.5 annually for youth violence prevention programs

Each PIA member organization has a local organizing committee open to congregation/organization members and neighborhood residents. PIA is governed by a representative and diverse Board of Directors elected by delegates selected by each member organization. PIA is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is both nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

### **Affiliation with PICO National Network, *Unlocking the Power of People***

PIA is affiliated with PICO National Network, whose nationwide network of 50 congregation-based community organizations has members in 150 cities in 15 states. Established in 1972, PICO has developed a proven model of constructive public action by people of faith. PICO provides PIA with leadership training, staff development, consulting on issues, technical assistance and organizational networking. The 20 PICO organizations in California comprise the California Project, a united effort of 350 congregations and 300,000 families to bring the voices of our communities into the statewide policy arena on issues of public education, health care, affordable housing, children, youth, and families. In 2004, PICO organizations began coming together across state lines to work for federal policy change to solve common local problems.