

PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION



# 2009 Annual Report

**DEVELOP LEADERS, STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES**

# 2009 Executive Director's Foreword



By Mary Colleen Klein  
Executive Director  
Peninsula Interfaith Action

In a year when most people in the United States found their own resources diminishing, community leaders in Peninsula Interfaith Action continued putting their faith into action. In times of uncertainty, community leaders are continually challenged to choose between immobility and leaps of faith. In such a time, action strengthens faith.

On the national stage, the year was one of promise and of turmoil. PIA leaders mobilized community participation in contentious national debates over healthcare reform and immigration issues. On the local level, PIA leaders continued to act on their faith that real improvements are possible in their communities. Through commitment and hard work, they won practical solutions like sidewalks, a teacher-training program, and expanded hours at a teen center.

These words of encouragement from Dorothy Day are often quoted: "People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions." She continues with words of challenge, which are quoted

less often: "No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do." These two aspects of faith – that right actions ultimately yield right results, whether or not they are evident, and that each person is required to work towards a higher purpose – are engines of forward movement in times of uncertainty.

The pages that follow are a testament to the persistence and hard work of hundreds of PIA leaders and supporters in 2009. It is a testament to what is possible when organized people put their faith into action.

## ABOUT PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION

### OUR MISSION

PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION (PIA) creates the capacity in ordinary people to achieve extraordinary results for their communities. Motivated by the values of democracy and diverse faith traditions, PIA develops leaders who identify, address, and resolve critical local and regional needs for affordable housing, safer neighborhoods, access to health care, youth services and more.

### WHO WE ARE

We are a federation of 30 congregations incorporated as a nonpartisan, nonsectarian 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. We represent 20,000 households of diverse racial, ethnic, economic and religious backgrounds. Our 30 member congregations enter into partnerships with allied organizations and public officials to transform public policy at all levels. PIA is affiliated with the PICO National Network and PICO California and collaborates with them on the state and national level to affect change.

### WHY WE SUCCEED

PIA develops leaders who listen to the deeply-felt needs of their communities and work to create collaborations to resolve community problems. Empowered leaders influence the formation of policies that make political, economic, educational and cultural systems accountable, ensuring a self-sustaining foundation for lasting change.



# Highlights and Accomplishments

# 2009

## ENGAGING IMMIGRANTS

New immigrants took the lead in 2009 in organizing several PIA congregations in Redwood City, San Mateo, and East Palo Alto. PIA leaders organized **“Know Your Rights” trainings for over 150 new immigrants** and brought in teams of immigration lawyers, who provided free, private legal consultations to nearly 100 new immigrants. PIA leaders also worked with city council members in Redwood City to **decrease the frequency of unfair car impoundments** against new immigrants there.



## EXPANDING HEALTH CARE

Sustaining a persistent, multi-year effort through 2009 to achieve **national healthcare legislation**, PIA leaders sent 200 letters, made 600 phone calls, sent 8 leaders to Congressional offices in Washington DC, sent 30 leaders to Congressional offices on the Peninsula, and mobilized over 400 people for a local action – all to keep reminding Congress that health care must be made **affordable** for the people who need it. By the end of the year, the US House of Representatives had passed **healthcare legislation with affordability protections**, and PIA leaders turned their attention to the passage of healthcare legislation in the Senate.

## IMPROVING EDUCATION

Having established **a successful program of classroom tutors** to support students at Roosevelt Elementary School, PIA leaders in Redwood City decided to do more. Observing that substitute teachers were often unprepared to provide effective classroom instruction, PIA leaders organized and won a solution for all schools in the Redwood City Elementary District – **a training program for substitute teachers** throughout the district.

## ENGAGING YOUTH

PIA youth leaders and adult allies succeeded in convincing the Pacifica City Council to sponsor a **Youth Advisory Board**, an important step towards addressing the long-standing need for improved youth programming there. In East Palo Alto, members of the PIA committee, “Youth Leaders Of Our Community, YLOOC,” collaborated with city agencies to sponsor a youth summit on **bridging the gap between law enforcement and youth**. Youth leaders in Mountain View – members of “Youth Motivated for Action and Involvement, YMAI,” – celebrated the city’s purchase of a property suitable for a new teen center and the **expansion of teen-center hours and programming** at the city’s current facility.

## IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS

When the national mortgage crisis hit the Peninsula in 2009, 200 PIA leaders brought California State Assembly-member Jerry Hill to St. Matthew Church in San Mateo to consider solutions. The legislator agreed to actively promote local enforcement of SB 1137, which is designed to **protect neighborhoods from blight** by fining banks for neglecting bank-owned properties. In 2009, PIA leaders also celebrated the long-awaited opening of a **full-service grocery store in East Palo Alto**, which PIA leaders had pursued for years. These leaders did more than celebrate when the grand opening approached – they also worked with city officials to assure that the interests of all ethnic communities in the city were served by the store, both as customers and as employees. Also in East Palo Alto in 2009, PIA leaders celebrated the **construction of new sidewalks**, which they had worked hard to win.

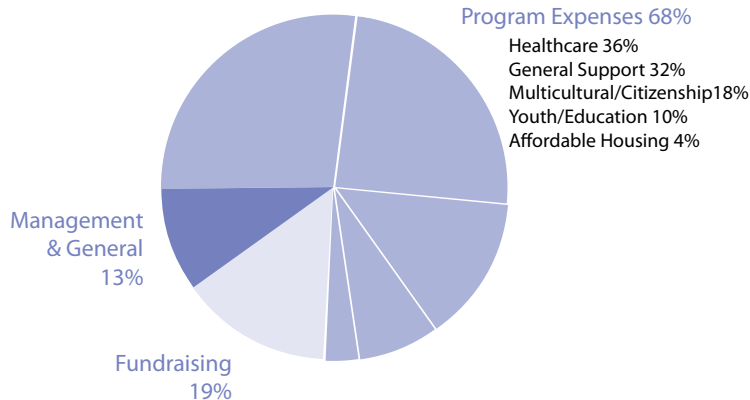
## PLANNING FOR THE LONG-TERM

PIA entered a formal strategic planning process in 2009, with the help of *pro bono* consultants from the Taproot Foundation. The resulting **Strategic Plan for 2010-2012** now serves as a valuable guide to PIA during a time of decreased resources and increased need. It includes organizational goals in the broad areas of Leadership, Membership, Issue Development, Communications, and Fund Development.

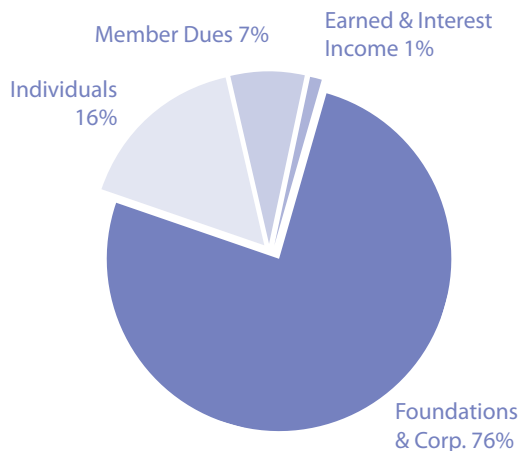
# PIA Financial Statement

# 2009

## Use of Funds



## Source of Funds



	2009	2008
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUES</b>		
Foundations & Corporations	\$402,193	\$595,660
Individuals	\$108,552	\$97,655
Member Dues	\$40,602	\$42,469
Contributions In-Kind	\$63,000	\$9,970
Earned Income & Interest Income	\$2,489	\$6,508
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUES</b>	<b>\$616,836</b>	<b>\$752,262</b>

## EXPENSES

Program	\$434,037	\$474,468
Management & General	\$83,914	\$91,628
Fundraising	\$118,023	\$119,759
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$635,974</b>	<b>\$685,855</b>

## NET ASSETS

Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$357,638	\$291,231
Net Assets, End of Year	\$338,500	\$357,638
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$19,138)</b>	<b>\$66,407</b>

## POSITION OF NET ASSETS

<i>Assets</i>		
Cash	\$337,171	\$359,176
Prepaid Expenses & Accounts Receivable	\$0	\$855
Property & Equipment (less accumulated depreciation)	\$6,937	\$7,125
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$344,108</b>	<b>\$367,156</b>

## *Liabilities*

Accounts Payable	\$4,903	\$6,601
Payroll & Deferred Support & Revenue	\$705	\$2,917
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$5,608</b>	<b>\$9,518</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$338,500</b>	<b>\$357,638</b>

The information shown in this Annual Report has been summarized by PIA from its financial records. A copy of an independent accountant's review may be obtained upon request from PIA's Director of Development.



As the Pastor of Second Baptist Church in Redwood City for twenty years, Reverend Thomas Fisher has counseled dozens of church members through struggles with skyrocketing housing prices. Most have been forced to relocate to far-flung cities over the years, and now they only come together on Sundays. When Reverend Fisher realized that Second Baptist had become a "commuter church," he sought to anchor it more firmly in Redwood City, and he found PIA. With the support of their PIA organizer, church members canvassed the neighborhood around Second Baptist, identified dangerous intersections, and worked with city officials to install stop signs there, making the neighborhood safer and the community stronger.

# 2009 Contributors

## Corporation & Foundation Support

Anonymous Family Charitable Trust  
Blue Shield Foundation  
Borel Private Bank & Trust Company  
California Endowment  
California Wellness Foundation  
Cargill Incorporated, Salt Division  
Couch Investments  
David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Day Worker Center  
Diocese of San Jose  
Edward W. Hazen Foundation  
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund  
First Republic Bank  
Grove Foundation  
Hewlett-Packard Company  
Intuit Corporation  
Los Altos United Methodist Church  
Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital  
Norcal Waste Systems of San Mateo County  
Office of Assembly-member Ira Ruskin  
Office of Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo  
Office of State Senator Joe Simitian  
Office of San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tissier  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation  
Palo Alto Weekly/Palo Alto Online  
PICO California Project  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Presbytery of San Jose  
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation  
San Francisco Foundation  
Sandler Family Supporting Foundation  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Sobrato Family Foundation  
Stanford Hospital & Clinics  
Synopsis  
Taproot Foundation  
Tides Foundation/Kieschnick Family Advised Fund  
United American Bank  
Urban Habitat  
Wachovia Corporation  
Wells Fargo Bank, Community Development  
Zellerbach Family Fund

## Donors \$250 to \$2,000

Maya Altman  
Thomas Atwood  
Rev. John Baumann  
Keith Bickford  
Ruth & George Chippendale  
Philip Cosby  
Jane & Walter Day  
John & Lisa Dumanske  
Karyl Eldridge  
Barbara Erbacher  
Anne Frahn  
Palo Alto Friends Meeting  
Jane Glauz  
Leonard & Terri Goldberg  
Norma Grench  
Lorraine Hancock  
Edie Keating  
Mary Klein  
Carol & Joseph Marchi  
Rev. Bob Moran  
Monica Olsen  
Laura Peterhans  
Len Radzilowski  
Patricia Ramirez-Herrick  
Diana Reddy  
Luis Robles  
Mark Ruzon  
Sherri Sager  
Kathy Shea  
Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo  
Leslie Vallerga  
Rev. Dale & Debbie Weatherspoon  
Ross Weir  
Muriel & Roger Willey  
Catherine Wolff  
Jean Wolman

## Individual Donors Under \$250

Please see a listing of these numerous contributors in PIA's semi-annual newsletter. We are grateful to **PIA's member congregations for supporting PIA's annual Community Heroes Awards Luncheon** with contributions totaling over \$20,000.

*We apologize for any omission or error. Please contact the PIA office if you have any concerns.*

**Lupita Gomez** is a connector. When she was 18, strangers helped her navigate a maze of paperwork to become a legal US resident. Since then, Lupita has kept her pact with God to **help others find information they need**. For years, Latino parishioners at St. Athanasius Church in Mountain View have known that Lupita always has the latest news about events and services at the church. When Lupita met a PIA organizer, she saw an even greater opportunity to **help her community**. Through PIA, Lupita helped convince her city to include **Spanish-language pages in city brochures and to expand city programs for teens**. Lupita's faith, persistence, and community knowledge are invaluable assets to PIA.



# Member Congregations, Board of Directors and Staff

## MEMBER CONGREGATIONS

All Saints' Episcopal Church	Palo Alto	St. Joseph Church	Mountain View
Broadmoor Presbyterian Church	Daly City	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Palo Alto
Catholic Community at Stanford	Stanford	St. Matthew Church	San Mateo
Chalice Christian Church	San Carlos	St. Peter Church	Pacifica
Church of the Good Shepherd	Pacifica	St. Samuel Church of God in Christ	East Palo Alto
Community United Church of Christ	San Carlos	St. Thomas Aquinas Church / OLR	Palo Alto
Congregation Beth Am	Los Altos Hills	St. Vincent de Paul Society, San Mateo County	San Mateo
Congregational Church of San Mateo	San Mateo	Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto	Palo Alto
El Buen Pastor Episcopal Church	Redwood City	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	Redwood City
Faith Missionary Baptist Church	East Palo Alto	Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo	San Mateo
First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto	Palo Alto	United Methodist Church of Daly City	Daly City
Peninsula Sinai Congregation	Foster City	Walls of Faith Church of God in Christ	East Palo Alto
Second Baptist Church	Redwood City	Woodside Road United Methodist Church	Redwood City
St. Athanasius Church	Mountain View		
St. Bartholomew Church	San Mateo	<b>YOUTH AFFILIATES</b>	
St. Dunstan Church	Millbrae	Youth Leaders of our Community (YLOOC)	East Palo Alto
St. Francis of Assisi Church	East Palo Alto	Youth Motivated for Action & Involvement (YMAI)	Mtn. View

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

### Executive Officers

Sonja Spencer, Co-Chair, Faith Missionary Baptist Church  
 Ross Weir, Co-Chair, St. Bartholomew Church  
 Marco Antonio Cedillo, Vice-Chair, St. Joseph Church  
 Philip Cosby, Treasurer, St. Athanasius Church  
 Jean Wolman, Secretary, Congregation Beth Am

### Officers at Large

Thomas Atwood, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
 Rev. Clifton Bennett, Walls of Faith COGIC  
 Daysi Cuellar, Iglesia del Buen Pastor  
 Rev. Thomas Fisher, Second Baptist Church  
 Rabbi Marvin Goodman, Peninsula Sinai Congregation  
 Esterline Hill, St. Francis of Assisi Church  
 Ebony Isaac, Walls of Faith COGIC  
 Joan Kilroe, Congregational Church of San Mateo  
 Pat Kolbe, Church of the Good Shepherd  
 Alma Lalonde, Our Lady of the Rosary / St. Thomas Aquinas  
 Maria Marroquin, St. Joseph Church / Day Worker Center  
 Eddie Olmos, St. Joseph Church  
 Lilian Sacun, United Methodist Church of Daly City

### STAFF IN 2009

Mary Klein, Executive Director  
 Lisa Hicks-Dumanske, Director of Development  
 Lori Abrahamsohn, Communications and Operations Manager  
 Tameeka Bennett, Community Organizer  
 Maria Darling, Community Organizer  
 Ramon Gomez, Community Organizer  
 Rebecca Perez, Community Organizer  
 Silvia Ramirez, Community Organizer  
 Karla Sandoval, Administrative Assistant/Translator  
 Nadya Sigona, Office Manager/Translator

### PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION

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When [Jean Wolman](#) moved to California to raise her young family and start her career, she carried with her a deep concern for national issues, fostered through her childhood near Washington, D.C. As her children grew up and retirement approached, Jean turned more of her attention to Congregation Beth Am and the [Jewish commitment to "repair the world."](#) The PIA committee at Beth Am became a natural channel for Jean's concerns. She has represented PIA several times in D.C. – through the PICO National Network campaign to make [healthcare affordable for everyone](#). At the same time, Jean's synagogue noticed the [leadership skills that she was developing through PIA](#). One result is that Jean currently serves on Beth Am's Board of Directors.

