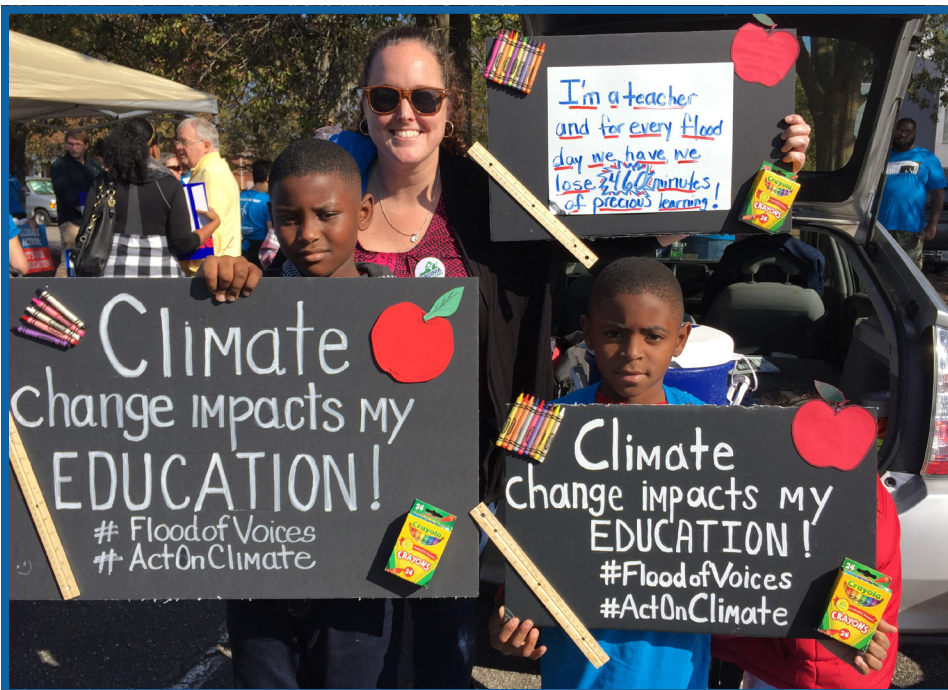




2016 Annual Report

Building Power and Leaders



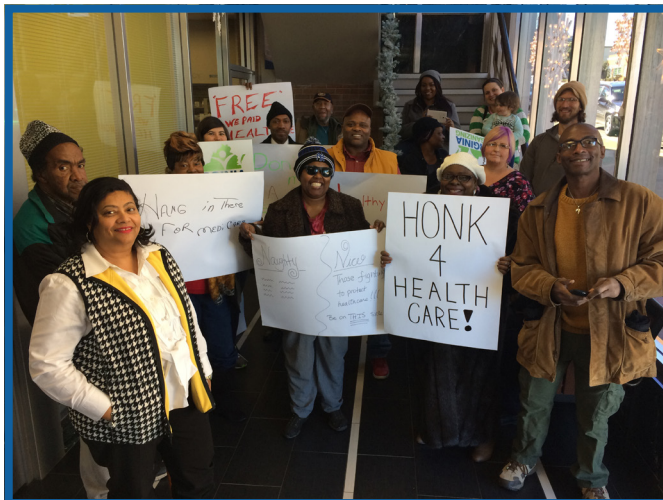
KEY VICTORIES IN 2016

The Fredericksburg Chapter of Virginia Organizing **won our campaign to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline** by working with the superintendent and sheriff of Spotsylvania County to limit the powers of school resource officers to stop the high rates of referrals to the legal system for non-criminal actions.

As part of a national push to support strong rules against predatory lending, Virginia Organizing **worked to secure public comments to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**. Nationally, more than 450,000 supportive comments were submitted.

The Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro (SAW) Chapter of Virginia Organizing worked with Augusta Health, a hospital frequented by a large deaf and hard-of-hearing population, to be **more accessible to the deaf community and their families**. The hospital is adding interpreters, training staff, and working to ensure that family members don't spend their time and energy interpreting for their loved ones.

Virginia Organizing **joined with other state and local groups to organize the March on the Mansion**. More than 600 people marched from Brown's Island to the Governor's Mansion in Richmond to support environmental justice on an unusually hot July day. This march was a culmination of ongoing environmental justice work like our "Flood of Voices" campaign in South Hampton Roads and support of local and national environmental groups all across Virginia.



Virginia Organizing leaders in Danville held a rally to support health care and protect the Affordable Care Act. More health care rallies are being planned for 2017 to tell our new Congress to improve and expand health care access for all people.



We added three new organizers this year to increase our strategic organizing capacity, build more power, and win more. In Richmond, emerging leaders attended several barber shop talks to discuss issues in their community. Other emerging Chapters in Lynchburg, Eastern Shore, New River Valley, and Roanoke are forming.



Thanks to our faithful donors, Virginia Organizing has been able to keep a spotlight on leadership development. Building leaders in the community means more people taking action and inspiring others in their circles to do the same. You make this possible!



MEDIA REACH

Virginia Organizing leaders **submitted 243** letters to the editor and op-eds and were **mentioned 279** times in the news.



Virginia Organizing leaders, including returning citizens affected by the changes, celebrated restoration of civil rights improvements this year with Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe.

JUST THE
NUMBERS

989 NEW SKILLS
WERE LEARNED

45 ACTIONS WITH 1,317 PARTICIPANTS

ELEVEN DISMANTLING 76 LEGISLATOR
RACISM WORKSHOPS MEETINGS

95 CONSULTATIONS
WITH OTHER GROUPS

1,877 ONE-TO-ONES

TOTAL ATTENDANCE OF 4,028 AT 166 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS



CHALLENGING INJUSTICE

This year, Virginia Organizing:

- helped immigrants understand their civil rights and what to do if they are detained;
- engaged women of color, queer women, and women with lower-incomes in discussions about women's rights at our roundtables;
- is surveying 1,500 Latinx people in Harrisonburg about police relations; and
- brought diverse groups of people together to discuss racism and how to overcome it in our dismantling racism workshops.

We are challenging oppression every day. Thank you for partnering with us to promote justice in our localities, our state, and our nation.

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Virginia Organizing is inspiring people to take action on issues that are important to them! You can see new action steps each week on our website. Please take action and show our policymakers what a powerful constituency can do. Start by calling your elected officials and telling them what matters most to you.
2. We are going to keep fighting for social, economic, racial, and environmental justice this year. In 2016, we advanced the "Flood of Voices" campaign for climate change and also continued organizing in support of health care, school discipline reform, and much more.
3. Virginia Organizing could not do this work without the dedication of our volunteers, Chapter leaders, members, supporters, donors, funders, and partners. Thank you for your continued support of grassroots organizing!

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