



# the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

April 2005

## AHAC TAKES ON UTA



Darla Ball, Pat Harman and Jesus Campos hold up sign reminding UTA that bus riders pay sales tax, just like everyone else. UTA receives over \$100 million in sales tax each year but they still continue to raise prices to use their services. Maybe that is why 89.9% of Salt Lake City residents drive a car to work.

On Monday, March 21, AHAC organized a rally on the edge of the free fare zone to say that before UTA raises bus prices again they should first pay for an independent study to find out if UTA can move to a no charge transit system like the one in Logan. Unfortunately, UTA did not listen to our concerns and voted to raise fares on the following Wednesday. AHAC is not going to give up on this issue until UTA makes major changes to its prices so more people can afford to ride the bus.



AHAC organizer Bill Germundson explains why AHAC opposes bus fare increases to the media.



On Friday, March 18, Governor Huntsman signed a resolution acknowledging the importance of the Golden Rule and states that everyone has a right to food, housing, health care and basic economic security. This resolution was promoted by the Utah Poverty Partnership, a network of faith and community groups that includes AHAC.



It's not too late to get your **AHAC t-shirt!** We still have plenty of shirts left and you'll want to be sure you have one for our next action! They are \$8 and available in the office.

## Prescription Drugs and Medicare: A Summary prepared by the Utah Department of Health.

The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) will add Part D, which is a Pharmacy Benefit beginning in January 2006. To date there have been discount cards available, but Part D is a true pharmacy benefit which will provide drug coverage to those on Medicare.

This change will affect those who have dual coverage of both Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles) particularly. These recipients will no longer receive a pharmacy benefit through Medicaid, but through Medicare. For most people, the sign up for Part D is voluntary, but to prevent any break in coverage, the dual eligibles will be automatically enrolled in Part D. Automatically enrolled means the recipient will not have to apply to get Part D. Medicare and Medicaid will do the enrollment for them. This process is to begin July 1, 2005 and will include assigning them to a Preferred Drug Plan (PDP). The PDP is the plan—just like an insurance company—who will pay the pharmacy for the prescribed drugs obtained by the recipient. If the assigned PDP does not have the drugs on their formulary (list of covered drugs) the dual eligibles can change to a PDP that better covers the drugs they need. More information on the PDP providers will be available in the fall of 2005. Dual eligibles are allowed to change the PDP monthly if necessary, which is not allowed for other Part D participants—who can only change PDPs annually.

Additionally, the dual eligibles will automatically be enrolled to receive a pharmacy subsidy. This subsidy eliminates (1) the \$250 deductible fee, (2) the monthly premium, (3) and removes the so called “donut hole” or gap in coverage, which amounts to \$2850, that all other Part D participants must pay out-of-pocket. However, dual eligible will be required to pay a co-payment of \$1 for generic and \$3 for brand name drugs for each prescription. Those who are institutionalized, such as those in nursing homes, are exempt from the co-payments. The co-payment is the only out-of-pocket cost to dual eligibles.

### Summary:

- Beginning January 1, 2006, dual eligibles will receive their prescription drugs through Medicare and not Medicaid.
- Dual eligibles will always have drug coverage. There should be no time when dual eligibles have no drug coverage during the transition to the new program.
- Dual eligibles will be automatically enrolled in Part D.
- Dual eligibles will be automatically enrolled to receive the pharmacy subsidy to cover most out of pocket costs of the Part D program.
- Dual eligibles will be required to pay a \$1 for generic and \$3 for brand name co-payment for each prescription and is the only

Medicare will be mailing information beginning in May, 2005 about this new program. Medicaid will be informing dual eligibles about this change beginning in June or July, 2005.

## THE MARVELOUS WORK OF NATURE AND THE BEAUTY OF SPRING *by Rudy Roca*

The melodious chirping of the birds herald the coming of spring. Spring brings the magnificence and radiance of the universe as it unfurls the panoramic scenery of grandeur and exquisite beauty of nature. The yellow crocus and the daffodils flowering like ocean waves and the varied colors of the primrose are the first flowers in spring. What a gorgeous scenery to behold the bloom of the multicolored tulips and the purple and lavender bloom of the lilacs.

One cannot resist the elegance of the pink-colored bloom of the cherry tree as the soft winds caress the delicate soft petals of its flowers. Looking at these beautiful things will give one a glimmer of hope, like the plants under the shade with a partial supply of sunlight.

Enjoying the beauty of nature in spring will give one a vibrant feeling with a renewed vigor of love and hope as the world welcomes the coming of the Lord at Easter.



Darla Ball, Senator Fred Fife, Rudy Roca, Ursula Hernandez and Faina Raik at the AHAC Annual Meeting.

### Joke of the Month

*by Douglas Cotant*

A little boy's mother and father had just finished their dinner; the Boy's mom said: "Johnney, how about a nice big bowl of jello for dessert, cause you were a good boy today." Johnny, looking at the jello, said, "Mommy, I can't eat this." Mother, with a puzzled look her face said, "Why not?" Johnny looking at the jello again said, "Because, it isn't dead yet!"



## A Summary of Adult Dental and Vision Restoration: *prepared by the Utah Department of Health*

**Dental:** Beginning July 1, 2005, dental benefits will be restored to recipients with Traditional Medicaid coverage. This restoration of dental benefits will allow the same coverage that existed prior to June, 2002, which includes exams, x-rays, preventative services, fillings, extractions, root canals, dentures and partial dentures.

The dental benefit for Non-Traditional recipients can not be restored in July of 2005. **[Editor's note: non-traditional Medicaid recipients have a blue card. Traditional Medicaid recipients have a purple card.]** That dental benefit restoration will depend upon receiving approval from the federal administrators who control the Primary Network Waiver program and may take several months to obtain. After the federal approval is obtained, the Non-Traditional dental benefit will be restored which will include exams, x-rays, preventive services, fillings and simple extractions. Notices will be sent to inform recipients about this change at that time.

**Vision:** Beginning July 1, 2005, the eyeglasses benefit will be restored to adult Traditional Medicaid recipients.

The eyeglasses benefit available under the Primary Care Network waiver limits the vision benefit to a single, annual vision exam. Therefore, no eyeglass benefit can be provided for Non-Traditional Medicaid recipients.

## 2 Poems by Sam King

### On Success

Sweet, sweet, honey sweetness  
The synaptic delirium of wantonness  
Nectarous serum for happiness  
Whether minute or maginificent  
Success is a winning event  
Failure fails, as success prevails

### On Failure

Failure isn's invincible  
It only wounds the pride  
Adherence to your principles  
Failure will succumb or hide.

*(c) 2005 Sam King*

## AHAC ELECTS NEW LEADERS AND CELEBRATES VICTORIES

On Tuesday, March 15, the Anti-Hunger Action Committee held its annual meeting to celebrate victories during the past year, elect new leaders, and begin to set priorities for the next twelve months. David Hughes was presented a special award acknowledging his leadership and many contributions to AHAC over the years.

## AHAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2005-2006

Darla Ball:	Board Co-Chair
Joe Coult:	Board Co-Chair
Rudy Roca:	Board Secretary
Don Reifsnider:	Board Treasurer
Laine Gardinier	
Patricia Harman	
David Hughes	
Vince Lobato	
Faina Raik	
Tia Thulin	
Marie Ulibari	
Margo Westley	



AHAC Co-Chair Darla Ball presents David Hughes with an award for leadership.



AHAC Director Bill Tibbitts presents a certificate to Anne Looser recognizing her service on the AHAC Board during the previous year.

**The *Anti-Hunger Advocate*** is a monthly newsletter of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC).

**Our Mission:** The Anti-Hunger Action Committee is a membership organization composed of and led by food pantry clients and their friends.

-We unite many different kinds of people served by food pantries in order to increase community involvement of low income Utahns.

- We educate Salt Lake County residents about available resources and issues facing food pantry clients.

- We organize food pantry clients and their friends to take action on their own behalf.

- We promote solutions to problems that cause hunger and poverty in the lives of our members.

**Our Supporters:** AHAC receives funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the United Methodist Church's Domestic Hunger and Poverty Program, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Hunger Grant Program, the United Church of Christ Hunger Action Fund, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and the Crossroads Urban Center.

**Submissions:** To submit an item to the newsletter, please contact AHAC at Crossroads Urban Center, 364-7765.

Previous issues of the newsletter are available either at Crossroads, or online at: [www.crossroads-u-c.org](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org)