



the **ANTI-HUNGER
ADVOCATE**

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

April 2006

AMERICA IS FACING A HEALTH CARE CRISIS!!!

Health Care Crisis Hits Home!

You don't have to tell AHAC members who have been fighting to restore dental and vision services to Medicaid there is a healthcare crisis. Here are some facts you may not know.

For the past several years healthcare costs have grown significantly faster than inflation. This trend is expected to continue. By 2015 healthcare spending will account for 20% of the United States' Gross Domestic Product.

Over 330,000 Utahns do not have health insurance.

20.6% of adults in the United States under the age of 65 do not have health insurance.

11.6% of children in the United States do not have health insurance. Over 80 percent of those without insurance come from working families.

487,586 Utahns rely on Medicaid, CHIP or Medicare funding to be able to obtain basic healthcare.

The Republican Study Committee, the conservative caucus in the United States House of Representatives, has proposed major cuts to Medicaid, CHIP and Medicare. Representatives Bishop and Cannon are members of this caucus.

Medicaid is a program that is funded jointly by states and the federal government which helps low income people obtain healthcare. The majority of Medicaid recipients are children.

Most adult Medicaid recipients in Utah have disabilities and are not able to work. A recent study shows that only 9% of Medicaid recipients who are working would be able to find private insurance if Medicaid were eliminated.



Illustration depicting the healthcare crisis by David Hughes



Congressional candidate Steve Olsen speaks at the AHAC Annual Meeting.

AHAC members elect new board at Annual Meeting

On March 16 AHAC held it's Annual Meeting. At the meeting a new board was elected for the coming year. There were 8 returning board members and 7 new board members were elected. Those returning to the board are: Darla Ball, Laine Gardinier, Tai Thulin, Don Reifsnider, David Hughes, Faina Raik, Rudy Roca, Margo Westley. New board members elected were: Cassandra Condor, Jackie Sanchez, Lou Anne Stevenson, Kathleen Pemberton, Joey Lee, Dennis Keating, and Virgil Day. Congratulations to all!!!

Medicaid Dental & Vision Coverage are set to end on June 30. Now is a good time to schedule dental exams, get fillings and new eyeglasses while you still can!

IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE VISION AND DENTAL BENEFITS!!!

There will be a special session of the legislature in May. There will be extra money available that could be used to restore these vital services. It is important for everyone who cares about this issue to call the Governor's Office and say, "Please ask Governor Huntsman to put Medicaid vision and dental funding on the agenda for the special session." If the Governor does not put the restoration of dental and vision services on the agenda the legislature will not even be able to talk about it. Therefore it is vitally important dental and vision gets put on the agenda. It is also important to call legislative leaders and let them know you are disappointed that vision and dental benefits were cut from the budget. Please make three telephone calls this month to preserve people's teeth and vision!!!

Governor Huntsman: 538-1000

Speaker of the House, Rep. Greg Curtis: 942-7464

Budget committee chair, Rep. Ron Bigelow: 968-4188

With your help we can get dental and vision back in the budget!!!

Untitled *by Joey Lee*

Is there a place in the sky for me?
Will the sun ever shine on me or
in my direction?
Sad, weak, i'd like protection.
Am I predestined, predetermined to be a nothing.
I want to be a star, something that glitters, shines
at night in the heavens
more so than a brand new car.

Joey Lee
12/24/05

Art & Advocacy Night

Tuesday, April 11 at 5 PM
Crossroads Urban Center
347 South 400 East

*Come paint, draw, write poems and
socialize with others.*

*Learn about AHAC's
Art From Utah's Healthcare
Crisis project.*

*Get your work displayed in
AHAC's montly Newsletter.*

For more information call the Anti-Hunger
Action Committee at 364-7765

A Money Saving Tip From Phil Runge

Would you like to save \$250 dollars a year on your electric bill? If you pay for your own electricity bill and have a breaker switch box in your apartment, just heat enough water for showering and dishes. 20 - 30 minutes of power to your water heater are enough to cover daily needs of 1 person, 40 - 60 minutes for a couple. The rest is wasted.

You will also need a water-saving shower head (\$10) and a timer. Also save money by switching off your water heater when you are away for a day or more.

Hope you find the ideas useful!

AHAC Board Member Profile



Tia Thulin

Tia has been involved with AHAC for 1 year. She joined the board of Directors in 2005. This year she has taken on the responsibility of being board secretary. She is looking forward to changes in issues AHAC can make this year.

Tia came in to Crossroads one day for a food order and found out UTA was planning on raising bus fares. That is when she became involved with AHAC to make a difference. She like attending training's and workshops on subjects like becoming a leader, public speaking and being an advocate. She believes everyone can make a difference by voicing their concerns.

Family is very important to her. She has been married 18 years and has a daughter. Originally from Illinois, Tia was raised in California. She has been living in Salt Lake for 2 years.

Her hobbies include taking pictures of family and friends and crafts. She takes common household items and turns them into crafts. Christmas is her favorite time of year.

A member of the LDS faith, Tia is tolerant of other peoples faith and not judgmental of others religious beliefs. People are people. It does not matter what race or religion you are from, we are all equal.

Tia enjoys being involved with AHAC and working on the issues. If you are affected by issues like the health care crisis or rising transportation costs for low income people Tia encourages you to “get involved with AHAC, speak out and voice your opinion to change things and make things better!”

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 on-line at: www.crossroads-u-c.org