

the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

August 2004

Salt Lake City Mayor Signs Order Promoting Living Wages and Health Insurance

At noon on Monday, July 26, Salt Lake City's Mayor, Rocky Anderson, signed an Executive Order which requires city agencies to give a preference on city contracts to companies that pay at least \$9.06 per hour and provide their employees with health insurance. Over 80 people were there to watch the Mayor sign the order. Several of those people were wearing AHAC t-shirts. AHAC Co-chair Darla Ball says, "With low wages it is hard for people to pay for rent, food, and clothes for their children. I am very happy that the Mayor did this. With these wages hopefully people will be able to afford those things and live comfortably."



Mayor Anderson with AHAC

Salt Lake County is Next!

Now that Salt Lake City has said that it prefers to do business with companies that pay living wages and provide employees health insurance, AHAC is getting ready to ask Salt Lake County to do the same thing. Last month we began to collect signatures on a petition for County Mayor Nancy Workman asking her to take action on this issue. With your help we can collect over 1,000 signature before the end of August.



Mayor Anderson gets ready to sign an Executive Order promoting living wages



David Hughes and Joe Hudson are ready to take your signature on AHAC's petition.

HOMELESS COURT BENEFITS SALT LAKE CITY

by Joe Hudson

When a homeless person gets in trouble with the law, where does he or she go to get help? One solution might be the homeless court. The homeless court was set up by Judge Baxter to help homeless people resolve outstanding warrants and tickets and get a clean slate. The problem according to Jim Upton, the Director of the Weigand Center, is homeless people are not accessing the services they need such as housing because they have outstanding tickets, many of which are public nuisance violations. The homeless court has many benefits and involves a very simple process.

This is how the process works. A list of outstanding warrants is printed and posted on the wall at the Weigand Center. A person then can see his or her name is on the list. All one has to do is to show an I.D. If that person does not have an appointment, he or she can just walk in to see the judge. Every Friday Judge Baxter has court between the hours 1 P.M. and 4 P.M. This wonderful procedure makes it less intimidating for one to come to court.

The homeless people benefit from the program in various ways. When one initially enters into the courtroom, that individual feels he or she



Judge Baxter and Joe Hudson

is not being treated like a criminal. If the person is guilty, he or she can do community service for a short length of time to clear up the tickets. One person who was in court that day because of some previously missed court dates said of the experience, "the judge is fair with you and he really steps out to help." The judge gives good advice with the intention to help the person to reestablish his or her life over again.

As one can see, the homeless court produces good results and many benefits to us all.

Joke of the Month

by Douglas Cotant



The last time I was in ZCMI I was asked if I needed a parking validation; and I said, "No, I need a walking validation!"

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

Our Mission: AHAC organizes low-income individuals and their allies to take action on their on behalf to improve the social safety net and promote better jobs.

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

Previous editions of the newsletter are available at: www.crossroads-u-c.org



The Night

by Laine Gardinier

Night falls upon me quiet as a shadow
Rippling black velvet touches my soul
Like a silent hand laid upon my shoulder
I feel the peace and quiet of dark
The last birds singing heard 'fore the cloak
Are creatures of beauty, their song of pure hope
Hope of the new day dawning with light
Until once again comes the touch of the night



On July 17 over 50 people came to AHAC's second annual July Barbecue at Liberty Park. Everyone who came was able to socialize and learn more about AHAC.



AHAC Events Calendar for August:

August 4 at 3:30 PM: Candidate forum for House District 26. Come meet Rep. David Litvack(D) and his opponent, John Strong(D). This forum is free and open to the public and will take place at St. Mark's Tower, which is located at 650 South 300 East. Light refreshments will be served.

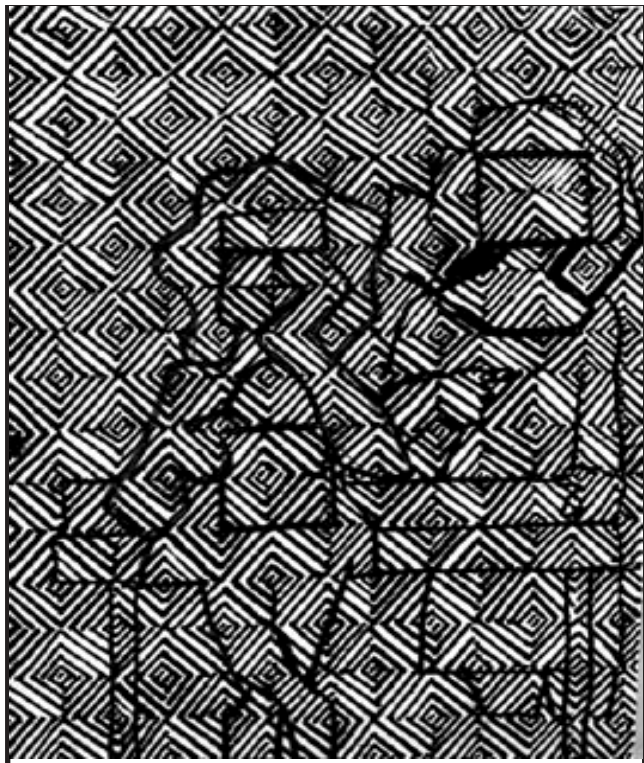
August 11 at 5:30 PM: Candidate forum for Senate District 1. Come meet Senator James Evans(R) and his opponents Fred Fife(D), Elain Jenkins(C) and Daniel McGuire(PC). This forum is free and open to the public and will take place at the Day Riverside Library, 1575 West 1000 North. Light refreshments will be served.

August 17 at 5:30 PM: Candidate forum for House District 24. Come meet Rep. Ralph Becker and his opponents Deborah Brennan(PC) and Karalee Trevino(R). This forum is free and open to the public and will take place in Spaulding Hall in St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 231 East 100 South. Light refreshments will be provided.

August 19 at 5:30 PM: AHAC Board of Directors Meeting. AHAC Board Meetings are open to all AHAC members but only Board Members are allowed to vote on issues before the Board.

August 28, at 9:30 AM, People's Summit on Poverty: Help AHAC and other grassroots groups determine which issues are important to work on during the coming year. The summit will take place at the Jubilee Center(309 East 100 South). Free lunch will be served. To register for the summit call Bill Germundson at Crossroads Urban Center, 364-7765.

For more information about any of these events please contact Bill Germundson or Bill Tibbitts at Crossroads Urban Center, 364-7765.



The Bar is Open by Mary Torgerson

Hunger Is Still Among Us I.

by Sam King

After the Great and wonderful creation
our Deity declared celebration
Plants, fruits, animals and birds,

Gifts of

Nourishment for our daily banquet
It's paradise; taste and smells are precise
Food!! Some of the best of creation yet.

At some point in time, somewhere, however
Human Beings' inhumanities have forgotten
Benevolence.

Selfish with greed, egos, and vanities,
we began to display Apathy
No empathy or sympathy

Some of our Fellow Human Beings decided!
Since such an abundance has been provided,
Food is profit. Bought, sold, the profit hoarded.

It's Business

caring and sharing at any cost is avoided
Poverty and Hunger were reserved seats,
Spoiling and foiling others the right to eat

And

Hunger is still Among us!!

(c) July, 2004

Not belonging

by Joey Lee

When it is cold outside
it is colder
having nowhere to reside;
to not have family,
Nowhere to hide.

Being alone
not trusting any,
street skills you hone
making you tougher.

Destitute, why must, not by
choice should some
Needlessly, pointlessly

Suffer?

People's Summit on Poverty

Too many people in Utah do not earn a living wage. They cannot afford food, housing or basic health care. Programs that fight hunger, homelessness and poverty face funding cuts at the national, state and local level.

Saturday, August 28
from 9:30 AM to 1 PM
at the Jubilee Center,
309 East 100 South,
Salt Lake City.

This event is sponsored by several grassroots community groups, including:

the Anti-Hunger Action Committee,
Coalition of Religious Communities,
Disabled Rights Action Committee,
JEDI Women, Utah Jobs With Justice,
and Utah HUD Tenants Association.

Free and open to the public. Free lunch will be served. Please register by contacting Bill Tibbitts or Bill Germundson at Crossroads Urban Center, 364-7765.