



the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

December 2004

Breaking News on Capitol Hill by: Beth Vincent

On Wednesday, November 10 nothing short of a miracle happened at the Capitol. Republican Representative Steve Mascaro presented not one, but two bills to the Health and Human Services Committee. One bill is for restoring dental care and the other is for restoring eye care. Can you believe it? Everyone's hard work is paying off. This is not a "done deal" by any stretch of the imagination but it's the first time two bills have been written to restore what we lost. How exciting and hopeful this is!

Rep. Mascaro introduced the bills to the committee. He opened with the comment that now there is more money in the budget than there was two years ago when budget cuts were made. He expounded by asking everyone on the committee to imagine what it would be like to have no teeth and no means of getting dental care. He went on to say that the issue at hand is not simply dental care but the importance of "oral health care" and what it will ultimately cost if nothing is done now. Restoring dental and eye care now is much more cost efficient than having Medicaid recipients ending up in emergency rooms, or worse yet, being admitted to a hospital with an infection.

cont. on page 2



AHAC Members Joe Coult, Beth Vincent, Doug Cotant, and Rudy Roca at the committee meeting.

Tuesday Night is AHAC Night!

If you are reading this newsletter you may be wondering how you can get more involved with the Anti-Hunger Action Committee. You can get an answer to that question this Tuesday because Tuesday Night is AHAC Night.

Are you interested in AHAC's efforts to get free bus passes for unemployed people who are receiving food stamps or AHAC's efforts to fight cuts to the Food Stamp Program? Then you should come to the AHAC Food Stamp Action Group Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Are you interested in the work that AHAC is doing to encourage employers to pay decent wages and provide employees with health insurance? Then you should come to the next meeting of the AHAC Fair Jobs Action Group on the second Tuesday of the month. Are you a writer who would like to talk to other writers about your poems, short stories, creative non-fiction or other types of writing? Come to the AHAC Writing Group that meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Are you curious about how you can help AHAC members work to restore vision and dental benefits to Medicaid? The AHAC Medicaid Action Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Each of the action groups and the writing group begin their meetings at 5:30 and finish promptly at 6:30. Light refreshments will be provided, and none of our members bite, so please come and socialize and learn how you can get more involved. Specific dates for meetings this month are in the AHAC Calendar on page 3 of this newsletter.

This message brought to you by Bill Tibbitts, AHAC Project Director.

cont. from page 1

Judy Hillman from Utah Issues was the next speaker. Time was short so she only brought up two issues before deferring her time to a dentist that had come with her to speak. Judy's comments were that she would like to see the two bills restored in "statute"...or more simply put, she would like to see them become law, and that if the bills passed the House and Senate that they become effective immediately (as opposed to waiting until next July).

The dentist who spoke brought up four specific cases. He cited a diabetic patient and how the lack of dental care affects her overall health. It puts her in grave danger and ultimately will shorten her life. His second case was a woman he sees who weighed 108 pounds but in less than a month has gone down to 100 pounds. If she continues on this course she will lose her life. She is NOT anorexic but simply can't eat enough healthy food without any teeth. Third case was a woman who would like to get pregnant but has gingivitis. Women who become pregnant and have poor oral health care are at a higher risk for problem

pregnancies and/or having infants born with problems that could have been avoided with the proper oral health care. The dentist made it very clear that lack of oral health care creates an infectious disease and it's imperative to do something now. After that, our own Doug Cotant had the chance to speak and gave a brief recount of his story and personal situation, encouraging the committee to take action!

After listening to the speakers, Rep. Mascaro made a motion that the two bills he worked on be approved by The Health and Human Services Committee and passed on to the House and Senate. Representative David Litvack was quick to second the motion, with the whole committee then voting in favor of the motion.

Even though we have come a long way, we still have much to do to insure these bills are passed. Writing letters to the governor elect is one of the best ways. We have to keep on keeping on!

Announcements!

Doug Cotant celebrates his birthday on December 3rd. Happy Birthday Doug!

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

Hunger is Still Among Us

by: Sam King

The bountiful harvest, finally gathered
Cards, letters and calls from friends
Gifts and visits from family so scattered
Toys in boxes, stockings and bins
Jack Frost, wind and snowmen
All accept winter as their friend

It's the ambiance of celebration
Today hunger and poverty seem on vacation
A truce is truly in effect
Charity through an armistice
Poverty is ignored and rejected
Compassion through giving is deemed,
Social and political correctness

Love, peace and goodwill is in the air
Yet poverty, famine lurks somewhere
The little child that doesn't smile
It hasn't eaten in quite a while
Impoverished, distraught and famished
His love, faith, goodwill and confidence, all damaged

He'd walk a mile for a simple sandwich
He'd walk even farther for a Merry Christmas

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Jokes of the Month

by: Douglas Cotant



What did one hole in the wall say to the other hole in the wall? "One more crack like that and I will plaster you!"

When I worked at Sorenson Research one day, the Supervisor told us "Watch your lot numbers on these pouches, and I said, "What channel are they on"?"

There are three types of Clauses:
Main Clause in a sentence, Subordinate Clause, and Santa Clause!

Hobbies

by: Joe Coult

I like to draw, I like to write.

I like to talk, I like to walk.

I like to be, I like to sing.

I like to listen to the radio, I like to watch TV...

I like movies, music and "I love you!"

A message from Joe Coult: Come join the first AHAC creative writing group. It will be fun!

AHAC Upcoming Events Calendar:

Tuesday, December 7 at 5:30: Food Stamp Action Group Meeting. Come If you want to get bus passes to those on food stamps, or have problems with your food stamps.

Thursday, December 9 at 5:30: New Member Open House and Orientation. Invite a friend to come find out more about AHAC!

Tuesday, December 14 at 5:30: Fair Jobs Action Group Meeting. We'll be discussing living wages and how to get active on the county wide campaign for a living wage!

Tuesday, December 21 at 5:30: Writing Group. Come join us for some free writing time and the availability of a creative spirit!

Wednesday, December 22 at 2:00 pm: Third Annual "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth." Come caroling with us at the governor's mansion as we lobby for restoring dental and vision benefits to Medicaid.

Thursday, December 23 at 10:00 am: Christmas Give-Away. Stop by for a Christmas turkey at Rowland Hall-St. Mark's, located at 843 South Lincoln Street (1150 East).

Tuesday, December 28 at 5:30: Medicaid Action Group Meeting. Here, we'll be strategizing and discussing how to get dental and vision benefits restored to Medicaid.

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

AHAC Publicity

by: Laine Gardinier

Recently I was required to give a speech in my Public Speaking class at SLCC, and the purpose was to persuade my audience to do something- so I decided to persuade them to join AHAC. After an introduction, some basic information about myself and my role in AHAC, I focused on three reasons why they should join us: because of who we are as a group of unique, caring individuals, because of what we do to fight hunger and poverty, and because of how we do it-how we are creating change. I talked about our members' backgrounds and our diversity as a group. I talked about our work on Medicaid's vision and dental benefits, Rocky Anderson and Living Wage, and the Foodstamp Challenge. I told them about phone call and letter writing campaigns, our physical presence at local events regarding relevant issues, and how fun and interesting it is to meet people like the Governor Olene Walker, Mayor Rocky Anderson and other local leaders. I used my t-shirt and a copy of the Anti-Hunger Advocate as visual aids, and I handed out the information sign up sheets. I do not know the outcome of my persuasion yet, but I have spread the word about AHAC, and by displaying our logo and shirt, have created a "brand-recognition" with my audience. Although I haven't limited my recruiting efforts to school, I saw this as a wonderful opportunity to tell my class how AHAC is "Knocking Out Hunger in Utah!", changing lives for the better and how much they could help us in the fight! Thank you!



Untitled by Mary Torgerson

Quotations from Dan Smith:

"Ownership for the sake of the owner should change into management for the sake of the community - just as the self-seeking and jealous attitude of the ego has eventually to be superseded by the compassionate and all-inclusive understanding of the Self." - Dane Rudhyar

"Man is a natural being whose nature is to overcome the nature which opposes him, yet he is fulfilled in his victory. Man is also a social being whose one creative social function is to overcome the conformism of a society which can only grow in meaning through the acts of individuals who challenge its power and its patterns." - Dane Rudhyar



Untitled by Vince Lobato

We have a new member of AHAC and a new artist! Vince was born and raised in Denver and moved in Salt Lake in 1981. He started doing art in the junior high, and has continued that throughout his life. He has done several drawings for the University of Utah's Hispanic community. Vince has visual problems which make his art all the more intriguing. He was diagnosed with lupus, and as a result of some medication, got a chicken pox infection in his eyes. He has had four cornea transplants and will have an artificial cornea transplant in the next six to nine months. We are glad to have you at AHAC, Vince!