



# *the* ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

February 2007

## BASIC HEALTHCARE DAY A SUCCESS BUT WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

About 120 people from over 20 different faith and community organizations went to the State Capitol Complex on January 15 to ask legislators to make 2007 the year Utah starts to solve its healthcare crisis.

This year legislators really could begin to solve Utah's healthcare crisis by funding Medicaid vision and dental services and expanding access to healthcare for children. Hopefully our elected officials in Washington DC will pass legislation later this year that will enable state officials to do even more next year. If our state and federal elected officials work together we can really solve Utah's healthcare crisis.



### PLEASE FUND MEDICAID VISION AND DENTAL

*by Margo Westley*

As legislators decide if they will fund dental and vision this year we the people have hope that they will do what is best. Preventive medicine is always the right answer to health issues. When you can stop a problem while it is a small issue it is more easily addressed. It becomes more costly and requires extensive remedy as it becomes a larger problem. Why wouldn't you do preventive first???

One of our biggest supporters at the capitol is Senator Ed Mayne, He gets the importance of why this needs to be funded. How many teeth do we need to loose before we can go to the dentist and save the teeth we have left??? The answer to Medicaid is pull first. We need restorative dental first. We ask that this year when we have such a large surplus that we fund the dental and vision. We can only hope that our other legislators will heed the voice of Ed Mayne and follow in what he knows is the right choice to make.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS TO PROMOTE BASIC HEALTHCARE

1. Join AHAC at the Capitol on Mondays at 1:30 PM. We meet in the Cafeteria.
2. Call the Governor's Office, 538-1000, and ask him to make sure vision and dental benefits are funded,
3. Call the Speaker of the House, Representative Greg Curtis, 943-3091, and ask him to support the Governor's healthcare recommendations for this year's budget.

For more information call Bill Tibbitts  
at 364-7765 ex 131

## Profile of AHAC

Member:

### Margo Westley



Margo was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, but in early adulthood moved to Hawaii where she had two children. About fifteen years ago Margo moved back to Salt Lake to be near family, as an automobile accident left her unable to work.

This accident, a truck rollover, was just the latest in a series of injuries that led to much grief for Margo. It also came just a month before she was to graduate from Nursing School. The message that Margo wants to give everyone is that “it is easy for one little accident to change your life.” Most people say that it will never happen to them, to which Margo replies “you never know.”

Margo was first introduced to the programs of Crossroads Urban Center through Justice, Economic Dignity and Independence (JEDI) for women, of which she was one of the founding mothers. Because of her work with JEDI for women, Margo was approached to be on the Board of Directors for AHAC.

As a board member of AHAC, Margo enjoys all aspects of the work that the group does. She notes that she especially enjoys “being involved in trying to make change.” One of her favorite activities with AHAC is going to the Capitol and lobbying for Medicaid Vision and Dental services to be restored. Past problems with

her teeth have led Margo to believe that dental issues are very important. She says that having her teeth fixed after years of problems “changed my life.”

Margo also sits on the Board of Directors for the Law and Economic Justice Center in New York City, a position she has held for 8 years. She works part time as a personal assistant, and enjoys swimming, cooking, and eating. Something that she hopes people will realize is that “you never know what is going on with people just by looking at them. Many people have disabilities whether they look disabled or not. I hope the state legislators will help these people meet their basic needs.”



*Painting by Virgil Day*

### Douglass Cotant's Joke of the Month



“Two Express Companies: Federal Express and UPS are going to merge; the new name is: FEDUP.”

**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](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org)