

# the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

February 2005

## Our Precious Valentine

to the tune of: *My Funny Valentine*

You're our precious Valentine  
Will you give your heart to us  
We beg of you to restore our dental and vision  
That was deprived of us  
So we can live happily in this world  
Without pain of toothache  
And can see very well  
With the new pair of eyeglasses  
And for all of this we are thankful for you  
You are our precious Valentine.

by Rudy Roca

## AHAC meets with Congressman Jim Matheson!

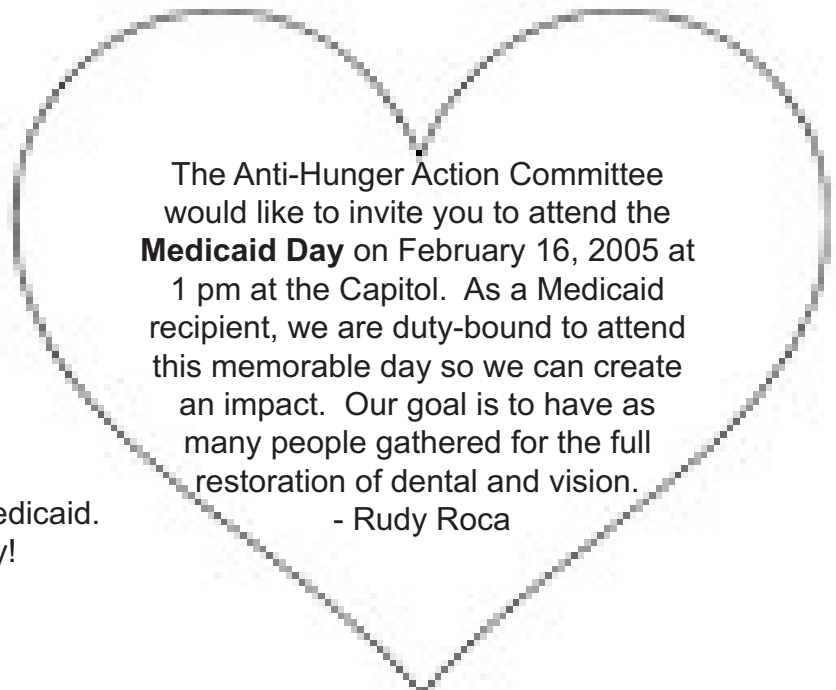


Darla Ball, Laine Gardinier, Bill Tibbitts, Ursula Hernandez, Congressman Jim Matheson, David Hughes, and Bill Germundson pose for a picture. AHAC met with Congressman Matheson to give him a copy of our petition supporting the current food stamp program, and urging him to keep the program fully funded.



Even Cupid can't get dental and vision help from Medicaid. Come join him and us up at the hill for Medicaid Day!

Illustration by: David Hughes



The Anti-Hunger Action Committee would like to invite you to attend the **Medicaid Day** on February 16, 2005 at 1 pm at the Capitol. As a Medicaid recipient, we are duty-bound to attend this memorable day so we can create an impact. Our goal is to have as many people gathered for the full restoration of dental and vision.

- Rudy Roca

# Golden Rule Project Update

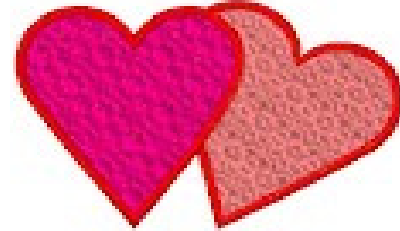


On January 1, the Utah Poverty Partnership sponsored a press release announcing the Golden Rule statement. Senator Fred Fife is sponsoring a resolution supporting the Golden Rule project. As a part of this, we are having legislators sign a card saying they support the Golden Rule and what it means for people who are hungry, homeless, sick, and economically unstable. Here the Rev. Dan Webster of the Episcopal Diocese speaks on the importance of the Golden Rule.

## Announcements!

Don Reifsnider's Birthday is February 5!  
Happy Birthday Don!

And **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY** to everyone  
on **FEBRUARY 14!!!**



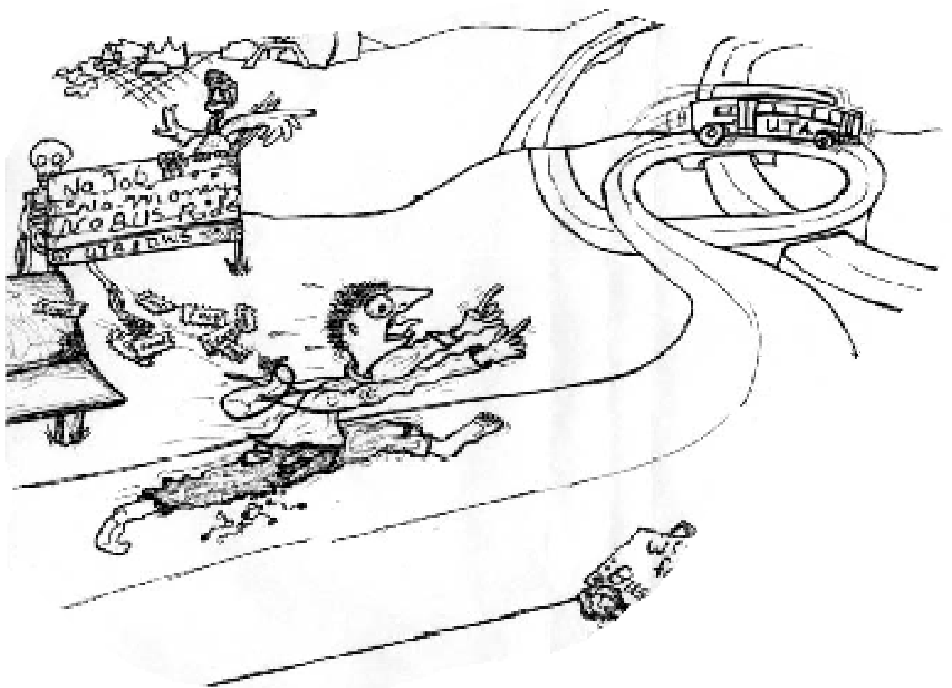
## Did you know? Fun Valentine's Day Facts and Trivia

According to legend, Valentine's Day is named after one of three St. Valentine's. One of the stories is that in the year 270, the Roman emperor did not want young soldiers to be married, because he wanted to send them to war. However, the bishop Valentine continued to perform marriages despite the emperor's wishes. Because of this, he was executed on February 14, and thus Valentine's Day began.

## UTA Wants to Raise Bus Fares!!!

**February 16 at 6:30 pm  
at the Salt Lake City Library**

UTA wants to raise the price for adult fare to \$1.50 each way. They also want to raise the price for a monthly pass to \$50 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$78 for people who have to use FLEXTRANS. The Anti-Hunger Action Committee believes these fare hikes will make public transportation too expensive for the people who need it most and lead more and more people to stop using public transportation. UTA is required by law to find out what the public thinks about a fare increase and so they are having a public hearing for Salt Lake County on February 17 at 6:30 PM at the downtown library. For more information about this hearing or the Anti-Hunger Action Committee call Ursula Hernandez at 364-7765.



**What Does the Federal Budget Mean to Me?**  
by Bill Tibbitts, AHAC Director

Washington DC is very far away from here and so it is sometimes very hard to believe that what happens there really makes a difference in our lives. On the other hand, sometimes it is very easy to see how things that happen in Washington DC are going to make a big difference here in Utah. For example, on February 7 President Bush is going to release his budget for 2006. Most experts believe that this budget will cut funding for federal programs ranging from Food Stamps to Medicaid to Veterans benefits to Section 8 Housing.

If the President's budget contains these cuts he will tell the American people the reason for the cuts is growth in the federal debt. Federal debt is a real problem now and will be a bigger problem in the future. However, only 15 percent of the federal deficit for this year is caused by growth in social programs. 48 percent of the deficit is caused by all the tax cuts the President has pushed through Congress. These tax cuts primarily benefit the wealthy, while cuts to the Food Stamp and Medicaid Programs will primarily hurt low income people.

Here in Utah we already have problems. Utah has one of the highest rates of hunger and food insecurity in the country. Over 300,000 Utahns do not have health insurance. Over 27,000 families are on the waiting list for low income housing. It is immoral to balance the budget by making these problems worse.

Fortunately, the President does not write the federal budget by himself. His budget is the starting point that our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives use in making the real budget. Elected officials who directly represent YOU, especially Senator Bennett and Senator Hatch, will help to write that budget. If you think that a budget that funds tax cuts for the wealthy by taking away basic life necessities from the needy goes against basic Utah values then it is your duty to remind those Senators who they work for.

## Jokes of the Month

by: Douglas Cotant



A lady had two dogs and was walking them one afternoon, when she met another lady and the following conversation took place:

Lady A: Those are beautiful dogs you have can you tell me their names?

Lady with the dogs: Thier names are Timex and Rolex.

Lady A: Why did you give them those names, may I ask?

Lady with the dogs: Because they are watch Dogs!

## AHAC Upcoming Events Calendar:

**Monday, February 7.** The President's proposed budget will be released.

**Wednesday, February 16 at 1pm: Medicaid Day on the Hill.** Make sure to come up to the state capitol for this event sponsored by the Utah Poverty Partnership. We will meet in the State Office Building auditorium, which is directly behind the capitol building.

**Thursday, February 17 at 6:30 pm: Public Hearing on the UTA Fare Increases.** At the Salt Lake City Library, at 210 East 400 South, on the 4th Floor, there will be a public hearing regarding the proposed increases in both the monthly bus passes and the per ride bus fare. Come and express your displeasure at these proposals!

**Wednesday, February 23: State of the States Event.** Come join AHAC and Utahns Against Hunger as we discuss what the new federal budget means for nutrition programs such as food stamps.

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.

### Hunger is Still Among Us Part VI

A special budget for bombs and guns  
Too little funds for milk and buns  
No increase for medication  
Not even enough for transportation  
Cereal for dinner, before the Sony set  
In a Great Society, this is as good as it gets

On the corner, so many panhandlers and bums,  
Competition among stamp tramps and cans  
All desperately seeking to come up and overcome  
So much hunger and homelessness  
Even part-time work would help  
Poverty creates anxiety, such stress

A homeless man, an All-American Veteran!  
Valiantly defended freedom and the homeland  
Upon his return, sadly he learned  
He has neither home or land  
Another All-American bum,  
This Veteran uses cans to supplement income

He bites into a hard roll with fungus  
Its certain and apparent  
Hunger is still among us.

by: Sam King  
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### Quotations from Dan Smith:

"Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without plowing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both. But it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand; it never has and it never will. People might not get all they work for in this world, but they certainly must work for all they get." - Frederick Douglass



**Message from AHAC Board Co-Chair, Darla Ball:** Life is very special to me. But I would like to know how to eat without my teeth. And how am I to live without my sight to eat? Please help us. Let us live.

**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)