

the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

February 2006

IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET MORE PEOPLE ON BUSES?

When more people ride the bus everyone benefits. There is less smog in the air and less congestion on the roads. The amount of sales tax money needed to cover the costs of maintaining the bus system also decreases when more people pay to ride the bus. UTA's sales tax income is growing several times faster than its services or ridership. How can UTA reverse this trend?

- **Reduce the price for bus fare to \$1.00:** In many other places bus fare cost less than rail fare. If buses are less popular than TRAX then riding the bus should cost less money than riding on TRAX. A bus with two riders paying \$1 each requires a smaller tax subsidy than a bus with one person paying \$1.50 or \$1.75.

- **Partner with government agencies that connect unemployed public assistance recipients with jobs:** Helping to reduce the number of families needing Food Stamps and other forms of public assistance should be one of the major goals of a transit agency funded primarily with state tax dollars. Some of the programs administered by the Department of Workforce Services have money that can be used for transportation, and so partnering with DWS could help UTA in the short term while helping to recruit consistent riders for the future.



Leon Johnson voices his opinion on proposed UTA bus route closures



AHAC board member Tia Thulin speaks at a public hearing on proposed UTA bus route closures



Darla Ball, Senator Scott McCoy, Laine Gardinier, Joe Coult and Bill Tibbitts

On January 9 AHAC members met with State Senator Scott McCoy and talked with him about the transportation needs of low income bus riders. Following this meeting Senator McCoy agreed to sponsor a bill stating that public transportation agencies have a duty to help unemployed public resistance recipients to find work. Senate Bill 227 "Responsibilities of Transit Authorities Receiving Public Funding" is one that AHAC will support this month.



AHAC CO-chair Joe Coult talks to Representative Mascaro



AHAC members strategize before talking to Utah Legislators and the media



Faina Raik talks to a reporter

On opening day of the legislative session AHAC went to the capitol to thank legislators for restoring dental and vision services last year and remind them these vital services need to be funded again this year. Several AHAC' members spoke to the media that day and were featured on the local news on T.V. that day. Will Medicaid dental and vision services be funded again this year? Stay Tuned!

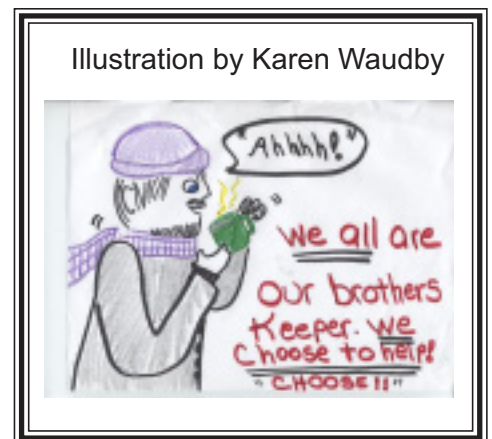
On January 17 AHAC members attended a training on how to speak to the media on such important issues as Medicaid and raising the minimum wage. The training was given by Gena Edvalsen of the Utah Progressive Network. Those attending were given tips and recieved training on how to stay on the message and not get sidetracked by the media



Laine Gardinier practices talking to the media



David Hughes (left), and Lou Anne Stevensen take turns being interviewed by Gena Edvalsen



Remove the Sales Tax on Food - It's simple, it's fair!!! With a large budget surplus, if not this year than when???



Longtime Crossroads board member Virginia Walton speaks at a news conference on removing the sales tax on food.



AHAC Co-Chair Darla Ball talks to the press after the news conference



Opening day of the Community Food Co-op!!!

The new best way to buy food! *by Laine Gardinier*

The Community Food Co-op of Utah, based at Crossroads Urban Center is a wonderful new way to buy lots of quality, healthy food- at a very low price! Joining is easy: pay a low one-time membership fee and perform two hours of volunteer work each month. January 21 was our first "D-Day" (distribution day), providing me with a large box of frozen meats, fresh fruits, vegetables, bread and a delicious bean soup mix. The quantity of food I received was so large, I had to get a ride home! The food was in excellent condition and it only cost \$21.00! I encourage everybody to join the Co-op; payments can be made with checks, bank cards or Horizon cards/food stamps! The Community Food Co-op is an opportunity for all of us to eat healthily, even on a tight budget. Be sure to check out the Community Food Co-op's newspaper, The Harvester, which contains articles, recipes and an order form for the next month. I have enjoyed meeting new friends through the Community Food Co-op as well, and next month I hope to see you there, too!

THE FORGOTTEN VALENTINE

By Judy R. Korlin

The other day I found a card
Hid deeply in a drawer.
It really caught me off my guard
And made me think once more.,.,.,

About the past—when Valentines
Were sent most every day.
I used to read between the lines
And throw them all away.

But this one didn't say, "I'm yours,"
Or anything so sweet.
It only said, "You are the best—
"You don't accept defeat."

I pondered over why I kept
This silly card as well,
Until I knew—and then I wept...
--It's such a tragic tale!

This Valentine was sent to me
When I was twenty-one;
When life was easy, problem free,
And there was lots of fun.

The sender of this Valentine
Who played a minor part--
Was later burned up in a mine,
--And died of broken heart.

I wonder if I should have shown
An interest in his name.
However, I'd have never known
If it was all a game.

The years have most forgot him,
But I'll think of him tonight.
My sad, forgotten Valentine
Will be my guiding light.

Original Painting by Richard Mieure



Gone Fishing

Doug's Joke of the Month

by: Douglas Cotant



Here is a sentence using the words: DE FEAT
DE TAIL DE FENCE

With defeet and detail the cow jumped over de
fence!

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

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