

THE ANTI-HUNGER

January 2004 ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee of Crossroads Urban Center

347 South 400 East, Salt Lake City 1-888-747-8482 or 364-7765

The Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC) organizes low-income individuals and their allies to take action on their own behalf to improve the social safety net and promote better jobs.



Dan Smith as the Pharmaceutical Industry Pig at the Capitol

AHAC AND DRAC PERFORM STREET THEATER AT CAPITOL

Wednesday, December 18 AHAC and DRAC took a sarcastic stand against the dental and vision cuts made to Medicaid more than year ago. A short skit was performed in which Santa, who represented the Utah State Legislature, gave several generous gifts. Gifts were given to the pharmaceutical industry, the ski industries, and to the U.S. Department of Defense while a lump of coal was given to the tens of thousands of Utahns on Medicaid who lack dental and vision care. This skit was meant to show that the money to restore dental and vision benefits to Medicaid is there. The Legislature simply needs to get its priorities straight. Dan Smith says, "We made our point."



Darla Ball and Dorothy Lane awarded for leadership and hard work. At the AHAC End Of The Year Party, Darla and Dorothy received awards for their notable efforts this past year. Dorothy collected more than 300 signatures on our petition to restore dental and vision benefits to Medicaid, and Darla has been present at almost every action and meeting that AHAC has been involved in. Both of them have shown outstanding dedication to the success of AHAC and certainly deserved these awards. Thank you Darla and Dorothy!!



Ask for a copy of the new AHAC sticker at Crossroads Urban Center!

AHAC STUDIES TREATMENT OF HOMELESS

The AHAC Homeless Issues Subcommittee has been gathering statistics to find out if homeless people are treated differently by the police. During November and December we interviewed 80 people. We found that:

- 52% of people surveyed have received a ticket within the past six months. Of these people:
 - 46% have more than one outstanding ticket
 - 12% have received a ticket for obstructing the sidewalk
 - 54% have received a ticket for trespassing
 - 20% have received a ticket for jaywalking
 - 33% have received a ticket for open container
 - 28% have received a ticket for something else
- 90% of all the people surveyed would rather take care of a ticket by doing community service rather than paying a fine.

These statistics show that the homeless receive more than their fair share of tickets for offences such as trespassing, jaywalking, and obstructing the sidewalk.

We also requested information from the police department regarding the number of tickets given for these offences in the Pioneer Park area compared to the rest of the city. The information that we have received so far shows that these tickets are far more likely to be given to people in the Pioneer District, which includes Pioneer Park, than on the east side of the city. 81% of trespassing tickets given in the city were given in the Pioneer Park District. All but one of the loitering and obstructing the sidewalk citations given were in the Pioneer Park District. If you are interested in this issue call Bill or Bonny to find out about what the Subcommittee is going to do next.

Do you or someone you know work for less than \$8 an hour without health insurance? Mayor Rocky Anderson wants to promote better wages in Salt Lake City. Would you like to tell him your story? We are

currently collecting stories. If you or someone you know is interested in talking to us for a few minutes call Bonny or Bill at 364-7765



Three Santas at The End Of The Year Party



Street Theater at the Capitol

3 Numbers to remember:

1. Crossroads Urban Center: 364-7765

In addition to our food pantry and our thrift store, Crossroads also has staff members who can answer questions and help you with your food stamp case.

2. 211/Information and Referral: at 211 or 978-3333

Information and Referral has information about all of the services available to people in Salt Lake County.

3. Department of Workforce Services Customer Relations: 526-4390

If you have had a good or bad experience with your caseworker, or someone else at DWS, you can call this number to make a comment about your experience.