

the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

July 2006

IT'S TIME TO TAKE HEALTHCARE SERIOUSLY

Over 300,000 Utahns do not have any kind of health insurance. Several thousand more have some healthcare coverage but are unable to afford all of the basic care that they need to stay healthy. State government could solve this problem but many of our state legislators seem to want to make things worse.

The basic rulebook for our legislators is the state constitution. The Anti-Hunger Action Committee believes it is time to add an amendment to Utah's Constitution that says, "The state of Utah has a responsibility to ensure that all state residents have access to the basic healthcare necessary to preserve life and prevent serious illness." This amendment will force our lawmakers to remember that they are responsible for dealing with the biggest problem facing the state in a way that reflects the moral values of the people of this state. Other states have begun to come up with plans to address the healthcare crisis, including the state of Massachusetts whose Governor, Mitt Romney, has strong ties to Utah.



Get a free copy of this bumper sticker
at our July 6 barbecue

We have begun collecting signatures on a petition in support of this amendment and plan to discuss it with legislators during the coming months. If you would like to help us obtain signatures on the petition, or to help with this campaign in some other way, please contact Bill Germundson at (801)-364-7765 or billg@crossroads-u-c.org

Come to BBQ and become powerful

On Thursday, July 6, at 6 PM in the northeast section of Liberty Park the Anti-Hunger Action Committee, and the other groups involved with the Utah Poverty Partnership, will be hosting a free barbecue. This is the fourth straight year we have hosted this barbecue. Every year lots of people come and have fun.

We are inviting candidates for elected office to this barbecue for two reasons. The first is so that we can ask candidates questions like, "Do you think government has a responsibility to ensure people can obtain basic medical care?"

The second reason we are inviting candidates is to make it easy for people from the groups involved with the Utah Poverty Partnership to volunteer for candidates from the party of their choice. Everybody knows that politicians care about people who donate to their campaigns. Unfortunately, some people think that because they do not have money they are unable to donate anything that will matter to a candidate.

Candidates need help passing out lawn signs, calling people on the telephone and doing lots of other little tasks. Volunteering for a campaign helps them get those things done and help those candidates to remember your face after the election. Low income people vote for candidates from both major parties. If more low income people would donate their talents and time to the candidates they plan to support at the ballot box things might change in positive ways.

An AHAC member thanks his former employer

by Douglas Cotant

This is a short article about my reaction toward my former Employer giving a \$1M donation to emergency Dental Care.

It is good that Mr. James L. Sorenson gave \$1M to Dental Care because if he and IHC had not done this, Utah's 40,000-65,000 poor, blind, disabled and also Seniors would have no means of paying for these emergency services. These services are important because if this money had not come when it did, there would be no where else to turn for help; many folks would probably wind up in the Emergency Room, and, perhaps some would die of such things as untreated impacted teeth and other dental related problems.

So kudos to Mr. Sorenson and IHC for helping us out in this time of critical



On June 17 Kelley Ford from the National Training and Information Center came and taught AHAC members about community organizing. Community organizing is fun!

Below: Laine Gardinier breaking a board.



A Tofu recipe from Dan Smith

You'll need:

- 1 rounded tablespoon of soft (silken) tofu
- 1 egg
- diced dry onion
- diced green pepper
- ming bean sprouts (optional)
- oil, salt, pepper

Whip egg and tofu with a fork, add to oiled pan with diced vegetables. Fry while stirring. Add bean sprouts when almost cooked.

salt and pepper - very good
cuts animal fat by 1/2.
Good, easy, fast

Appreciation Verbalized

by Joey Lee

When the ones that
Receive help thank
Us.

It can, will be a plus.
For volunteers, for employees
Does surely please.
But volunteers feel
Recognized.

Makes Their
Our Day

Lets Stand Together

by Lou Anne Stevenson

Oh Let's all stand together and do something about it, we must all unite, we need to stand and fight.

We must all stand together and do something about it, until there is justice and equality

VS. 1 - We are people too, and we've got a God given right to what we need to live, for we are all equal in his sight.

He sees beyond our circumstances to the heart, and he sees potential deep within us each to play a part.

VS. 2 - so what gives one the right to utterly refuse, to help someone in need till they have walked within their shoes.

People fall on circumstances they don't really choose, while doing everything they can, some help they still could use.

Bridge - Taking the torch of truth, we stand against the night, holding up its light, to fight against the plight. Together we can change our destiny, as God goes out before us while we stand in unity, to bring accountability.

VS. 3 - Times have changed and there is more greed upon the land, for we have lost much of our love for our fellow man.

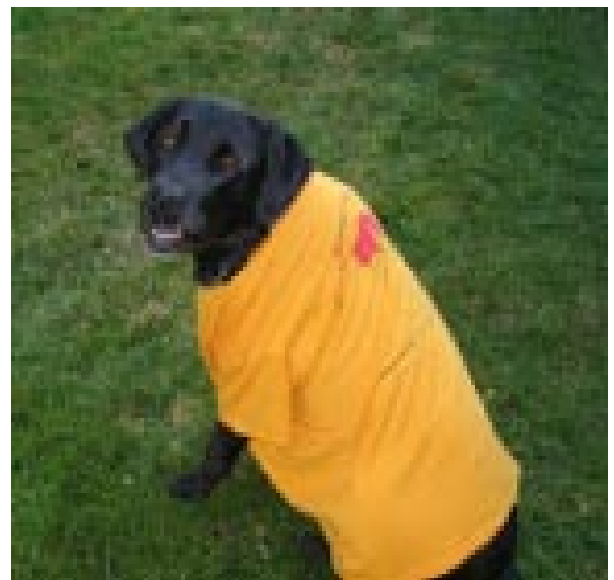
One man stands alone while the other climbs up high, upon the corporate ladder just to let the other die.

VS. 4 - We need to work towards being one community, let's work out our differences and strive for unity.

Peace will come when for each other we will care, and see each other through loves eyes, to know what's really there.



On June 21 AHAC, and other organizations, launched a campaign to amend Utah's Constitution with a press conference at the State Capitol. In this photograph Amber Izarraz is telling the story of her aunt who passed away this year because she was unable to afford dental care. You can read Amber's story on AHAC's blog: www.utahhealthstories.blogspot.com



AHAC T-SHIRTS WILL BE ON SALE FOR \$5 AT THE JULY 6 BARBECUE

Room for Rent

One bedroom, shared bathroom, simple cooking area, no utilities, 75.00/week. NP,NS,ND, mature quiet type. For information call Dan at 952-9211

Profile of AHAC Board Member: Don Reifsnider

Don has been involved with AHAC for over three years. He currently serves on the Board's Executive Committee as the Treasurer. Born and raised in Ogden he attended Weber State University and received a bachelor's degree in Sociology. He finds his education to be useful in his work with AHAC.

Don is single. He has a calico cat named Candee that has been staying with his sister since moving to an apartment that does not accept pets. Don's hobbies include collecting old coins and celebrity photos. He loves to watch movies. His favorite actor is Sean Penn. His favorite actress is Jennifer Connelly. His favorite T.V. shows are All My Children, Desperate Housewives and The OC.

Going up to the Capitol is one of his favorite AHAC activities. The fact that people work together as a group in AHAC, sharing collective ideas and acting on them is important to him. Don prefers a strong aggressive approach to activism. Don feels the most pressing issue facing low-income people is access to decent, basic healthcare.



He feels there is a lack of regard for people who cannot afford to pay for health services and he finds it appalling that the Utah legislature chose to fund a parking garage for 15 million dollars over dental services for low income people. He feels the legislature's priorities are reversed, they should take care of people first, then use what money is left over for things like parking garages.

If you believe in equal rights and justice for all and believe people should have equal access to healthcare then AHAC is for you.

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