



*the* **ANTI-HUNGER  
ADVOCATE**

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

March 2008

## **LEGISLATORS FUND MEDICAID VISION AND DENTAL BENEFITS: Help us celebrate on March 18!**

This legislative session AHAC members went to the State Capitol Building every Tuesday to talk to legislators about how important Medicaid vision and dental services are. Thanks to our efforts, and the efforts of our community partners, Medicaid vision and dental services were included in the budget for next year. That means that over \$8 million in basic healthcare will be available to low income seniors and people with disabilities in the coming year.

**Come help us celebrate all the different things AHAC members have done during the past year at our annual member meeting on March 18!**



Faina Raik speaking at a press conference at the Capitol Rotunda.



Lou Anne Stevenson testifying to the Joint Health and Human Services Executive Appropriations Committee about the importance of Medicaid vision and dental benefits.

You are invited to attend  
The Anti-Hunger Action Committee's  
Annual Member Meeting

**Tuesday, March 18 at 5:30 PM**  
**Crossroads Urban Center**  
**347 South 400 East**  
**Salt Lake City**

Celebrate our success. Eat some food.  
Elect new leaders.

*For more information contact Bill Tibbitts  
at 364-7765 ex 131 or [bill@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:bill@crossroads-u-c.org)*

# Remembering Joey Lee

On Tuesday, February 26, Joey Lee passed away. Joey was a former member of the AHAC Board of Directors and one of the most memorable, and regular, contributors to this newsletter. He will be missed. In his memory, we are reprinting eight of his poems together on this page.



Joey Lee

## Faults

All and every fault  
That I possess.  
My own fault.  
They're mine  
And mine alone.  
Can't share em  
Won't share em  
Don't dare.

## Realize

How many will  
Needlessly suffer from  
Lack of nourishment?  
Pointlessly die because  
Government lack of  
Commitment  
To do the job they  
Were elected to do  
Maybe once in office  
You & me they are out  
to screw.

## Untitled

Is there a place in the sky for me?  
Will the sun ever shine on me or  
in my direction?  
Sad, weak, i'd like protection.  
Am I predestined, predetermined to  
be a nothing.  
I want to be a star, something that  
glltters, shines  
at night in the heavens  
more so than a brand new car.

## March

Forward  
Go,  
Help others  
Is what we know.  
Care for you,  
A someone you  
Are.  
Do not let any say  
You are not a star.

## Hunger

Knows no plan  
Only knows  
Woman, child and  
man.  
Does not  
Discriminate  
Creed, color or  
Race...  
It knows no  
Face.

## Giving Thanks

Time of the year  
To appreciate the things  
You hold dear  
To give thanks  
For family and friends  
To thank the creator  
For your existence  
For happy times  
To spend more time  
To make time  
For loved ones  
Celebrate life,  
'Cuz it's too short

## About

Friends surround  
Friends they do abound  
Friends treat me with respect  
Friends because  
Much they don't expect.  
Best friends I've made  
Who are down and out.  
Good friends made  
Who've passed on, passed out.  
To make me realize  
What path I'm on  
Not changing my ways  
Only aware  
How limited my days.

## Rules Golden

As it has been penned  
Treat others as you  
Would like to be treated.  
Act how you want  
Others to act in your presence.  
That in itself is a present!  
Respect for others goes a  
very long way.  
Be kind in every deed and  
every word you say.  
Kindness is what can unite us.

# **No bus in Salt Lake City should cost more than \$1**

*by AHAC Board Co-Chair Laine Gardinier*

The Anti-Hunger Action Committee has asked Mayor Ralph Becker to assist UTA in considering a \$1.00 zone for all in-city residents, or to extend the free fare zone with a dollar zone in the rest of the city. AHAC believes that the establishment of a \$1.00 fare would assist Salt Lake City's low income population who rely on UTA as their sole means of transit and face continually rising fares. In addition, lower fares could also attract more and new passengers, increasing ridership and reducing pollution. The establishment of a \$1.00 zone will provide a crucial savings to those low income residents who use the bus for daily activities downtown.

## **HELP ASK THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL TO WORK TO CUT BUS PRICES!**

### **Salt Lake City Council Office**

451 S. State Street Room 304  
PO Box 145476  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
**Phone:** (801) 535-7600  
**Fax:** (801) 535-7651  
**Comment Line:** (801) 535-7654  
**Email:** Council.Comments@slcgov.com

### **WHY WE ARE GRATEFUL MEDICAID VISION AND DENTAL SERVICES WERE FUNDED THIS YEAR**

"I, for one, had a vision problem. I would lose my balance, which made me worry about falling down and hurting myself. But now I don't have to worry about that because vision has been restored." *AHAC Board Co-Chair Darla Ball*

"Dental services help me to keep my health up and have a way to chew my food. I have hypoglycemia and so it is very important to be able to eat and digest my food." *AHAC Board Member Lou Anne Stevenson.*



## **LEGISLATIVE AUDIT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT UTA MANAGEMENT**

In January the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst released an audit of the Utah Transit Authority that raised several important questions about the way that UTA is being managed. In response to this audit, state legislators passed a bill on March 4 that would add three new members to the UTA Board of Trustees and strengthen UTA's internal audit process.

### **Some problems identified in the audit include:**

1. UTA's buses currently have so few passengers that they create more pollution than would be created if all bus riders were driving cars instead.
2. UTA has overestimated TRAX ridership by up to twenty percent.
3. Bus ridership has been declining for the past ten years.
4. UTA's top eight employees received over \$170,000 in bonuses in 2006. The auditors felt that these bonuses were inappropriately high for a publicly funded agency and that they were awarded for inappropriate reasons.
5. UTA's General Manager, John English, gets paid over \$70,000 more than the average public transit agency director. Mr. English's salary was \$266,614 in 2006. That year he also received a performance bonus of \$39,860 and \$60,526 in other incentives.

# AHAC LAUNCHES BASIC HEALTHCARE PROJECT: WE CAN USE YOUR HELP!

This year AHAC is launching a Basic Healthcare Project. The goal for this project is to empower low income people to study the impact of rising healthcare costs for themselves and to encourage low income people and their supporters to become involved in discussions about healthcare reform. To reach these goals AHAC members will be:

- ☞ Interviewing one thousand food pantry clients to learn how rising healthcare costs impact them and their families.
- ☞ Organizing events where low income people and their supporters can meet with elected officials and talk to them about how important it is that everyone can afford basic healthcare.
- ☞ Visiting faith and community groups to educate them about this important issue.
- ☞ Handing out bumper stickers and buttons that say, “Basic healthcare is not a luxury.”

We can use your help with all of these things. To find out how you can get involved contact Bill Tibbitts at [bill@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:bill@crossroads-u-c.org) or 364-7765 ex 131.

*This project is made possible by generous funding from the Presbyterian Church USA's Self Development of People grant program.*



**The *Anti-Hunger Advocate*** is a monthly newsletter of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee.

**Our Mission:** The Anti-Hunger Action Committee is a membership organization for food pantry clients and their friends that organizes low income people to take action on poverty issues, educates low income people about available resources and provides opportunities to become more involved in the community..

**Submissions:** To submit an item to the newsletter, contact us at [bill@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:bill@crossroads-u-c.org) or 364-7765.