

# THE ANTI-HUNGER

May 2003

# 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.*

## Navigating the System: How to better access disability benefits

Special Speaker:

**Tom McWhorter,  
Utah Legal Services**

**Tuesday, May 20  
6pm**

**Crossroads Urban Center  
347 South 400 East**

Refreshments and childcare provided.  
Call Bill or Mandi at 364-7765 for more info.

Join the Anti-Hunger Action Committee for their May Monthly Event and hear from Tom McWhorter, an attorney with Utah Legal Services. As AHAC member Joe Coult explains, "There are a lot of people who are disabled and they need to know what resources there are."

Tom will help explain how people can apply for Social Security Disability Benefits and how applicants can avoid simple mistakes that many other people make when applying for disability benefits. There will be plenty of time for you to ask Tom questions about your own disability application or benefits. AHAC member Darla Ball adds, "Some people with a disability think they are worse than anything. This will help them to know that there are other people with the same problems."

## Every kid needs to eat, but what can we do about it?

At AHAC's April Event, Gina Cornia, Executive Director of Utahns Against Hunger, shared some important information about child nutrition programs and how we can make these programs stronger. We talked about the importance of child nutrition programs to Utah's school children and how their funding depends on the decisions made by our Utah Senators. Event attendee, Barbara says, "Its important to talk about these nutrition programs and protect them for the sake of the children that depend on them."

If you want to let Sen. Hatch or Bennett know how important child nutrition programs are to your family, ask for a postcard at the Crossroads' lobby. Simply complete the postcard and we'll pay the postage.

If you want more information about how you and your children can access school lunch and breakfast or summer food programs, call Utahns Against Hunger at 328-2561.



## YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!!

Last month over 60 people signed a petition that we faxed to Senator Bennett and Senator Hatch asking them to make sure that food stamps and child nutrition programs did not get cut in this year's federal budget. Thanks to those signatures, and the phone calls made and emails sent by AHAC members and other people, both of Utah's Senators voted to pre-serve funding for these important programs.

Thanks to all who signed the petition!

### Federal Budget Press Conference



On April 9th, AHAC members, religious leaders and other community advocates held a press event to let Senators Hatch and Bennett know that federal nutrition programs and other low-income assistance programs should not be cut so that rich people could be given a tax credit.

### **Pounding the pavement...**

Looking for a job is tough enough, but when you have no form of transportation, job searches can be near impossible. But never fear, help can be found at your local Department of Workforce Services!

If you have an employment plan at DWS, they can help you with transportation by giving you money for a bus pass or gas.  
**ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK YOUR EMPLOYMENT COUNSELOR!**

**Help with transportation....just one more reason it pays to check out the Food Stamp Program.**



Check out the NEW

AHAC Community Calendar!



Featuring the dates to Food Bank Drop Sites, AHAC Events and other important community events! Available at the Crossroads Urban Center Food Pantry.

## **Have you been told you can't receive anymore food stamps? It's time to ask again!**

On April 1st, the Department of Workforce Services is changing the way it determines how many months of food stamps that able-bodied adults are eligible for food stamps. Able-bodied adults will now be eligible for more months of food stamps if they face one barrier to employment.

### **Barriers to employment include:**

- If the able-bodied adult has a limited work history: Not employed by the same employer for longer than 3 months out of the past 24 months.
- If the able-bodied adult is between 45-50 years of age.
- If the able-bodied adult has a substance abuse or domestic violence issue.

**If someone you know faces one of these barriers to employment and would consider themselves an able-bodied adult without children, its time to check out the Food Stamp Program again!**

**You might be eligible for more months of food stamps, but you'll never know if you don't ask!**

**Call 1-800-526-3663 for a Food Stamp Office near you.**

## **Good Things to Know about Food Stamps**

- You have the right to be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect.
- You don't need to have a birth certificate if you are only applying for food stamps.
- Make an extra copy of the stuff you turn into DWS, have DWS date stamp it, and keep it for your records.
- Benefits are required to be issued to you within 7 days or 30 days of your application, it just depends on your situation.
- Have a comment? Call the DWS comment line at 1-800-331-4341 and let them know!
- **Call Mandi or Bill at 364-7765 if you want help with your food stamp case.**