

the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

November 2004

Election Results are in!!!!

By now most of you have heard the election results. Throughout the past year we have held non-partisan forums and met with many of the candidates. Peter Corroon was elected mayor of Salt Lake County, and as we know, he is in favor of a living wage ordinance for the county. We also held forums that were attended by the newly elected state legislators Fred Fife, David Litvack and Ralph Becker. We will be meeting with them soon to talk about important AHAC issues. State wide, John Huntsman, Jr. was elected governor. So far, Gov. Huntsman has failed to commit to restoring dental and vision benefits to Medicaid. We met with his Lieutenant Governor, Gary Herbert, on October 4 and asked him the same question. Turn to page 3 to find out how to change their minds!



Members of AHAC meet with Gary Herbert

Bipartisan Bash a Huge Success!



On November 2, AHAC hosted a social event to watch the election results come in and enjoy good food and good company. Here David Hughes, Doug Cotant, and Tara Hawkins enjoy the potluck.

Petition for Food Stamp Benefits!



Here, Jesus Campos signs a petition, held by David Hughes, to keep the Food Stamp program on the national level. Come by Crossroads to sign the petition and grab a clipboard to have your friends sign it!

Health Insurance in America

by: Don Reifsnider

I have given much thought to the health care system here in the United States. We (U.S. citizens) should be ashamed of it, and our "leaders" need to develop a conscience and put forth an all-out effort to completely reorganize the entire health system in America.

Here's why. A very large number of Americans are either poor (low income or no-income) and/or do not have any health insurance at all. It is very hard for them to pay for doctor visits and prescribed medicines - some of them have to decide whether to buy food to eat or fill their prescriptions. Prescription drugs are way too expensive in America, and it is no wonder that a large number of Americans (particularly those living in the northern states) cross the border to buy their prescription drugs in Canada, where they save 40-60 percent on the cost of such drugs! Do you blame them? Also: Americans who are poor and/or do not have health insurance are really put into a bind should they have a needed operation and/or a hospital stay. These costs

range in the tens of thousands of dollars - sometimes over \$100,000 depending on the type of operation performed (heart surgery for example) and the length of the hospital stay. The poor and/or non-insured Americans who experience these situations then have to mortgage their house (if they even have one), and maybe sell their car or other belongings just to pay their medical bills. In contrast, those Americans who are well-to-do and/or have full coverage health insurance have no such problems.

This should be unacceptable to every American! We are spending \$1.5 billion per week on the war in Iraq, while a very large number of Americans need health care - many of whom are dying from lack of it!

Every American citizen should automatically have free full-coverage health insurance that would totally pay for all doctor visits, prescribed medications, needed physical/mental therapies, x-rays, lab work, all dental and vision care, operations, hospital stays, etc. because they are American citizens and pay taxes! This should be their right!

Announcements!

November 24: Not only is this the date of our annual Turkey give-away, but also the birthday of our AHAC Director, **Bill Tibbitts**. Be sure to stop by the Indian Walk-in Center and wish him a Happy Birthday!

Chris Atkins was married on October 29 to Marie Rose. Congratulations Chris and Marie!

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 online at www.crossroads-u-c.org

The Battle for Dental and Vision Benefits in Medicaid

With the election of our new governor, John Huntsman, we are starting a letter writing campaign to put on the pressure. At Crossroads, we have letter-writing packets. Our goal is to flood Huntsman's office to let him know how important this issue is to us. So write a letter to Huntsman! Here are letters from Doug Cotant and Darla Ball about why these issues are so important.

"Since we have had no Dental and Vision benefits with Medicaid, it is difficult for me to go to a dentist since I lost a tooth. If I had to go for an eye exam and get new glasses, I would have to pay for it out of my own pocket. Therefore, we need to keep up the pressure on the new Governor and the legislature to consider an act to put dental and vision back into the Medicaid Budget."

-Douglas Cotant

"We are AHAC (Anti-Hunger Action Committee) and we need your help. Write to your legislators. Let them know how much we need our dental and vision. I know if we work together, we can probably win the fight."

- Darla Ball, AHAC Co-Chair

You can write to Gov. Huntsman at:

John Huntsman, Jr.
P.O. Box 27124
Salt Lake City, UT 84127

If you need ideas and facts for a letter, or a sample letter, please contact us here at Crossroads!

Jokes of the Month



submitted by: Doug Cotant

Know why the Chicken was not allowed to play in the Band? Because he had too many drumsticks!

What do you get when you cross a Rooster with a Chicken? You get a duck that gets up at the quack of dawn!

Editor's Note: Due to some editing problems, the punch lines of the jokes were cut off last month. Please excuse the omission and enjoy the full jokes!

Ded Dream

The eternal flame finally went out, died out.
Extinguished like so many hopes,
Dreams, aspirations, desires, not well thought out.
Still I possess want & will
Constantly have needs, lacking skill.
Content I could find myself
Attired in a cheap ill fitting suit.
Happy with a new pair of boots.
Was I predetermined for true
Everlasting love to be within
Reach & still be elusive?

To live, to learn, to laugh, to love,
Is it elusive?

J. Lee 7.8.04

AHAC Upcoming Events Calendar:

November 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm: Follow-up to Poverty Summit. Come talk about the issues raised in August - ranging from Medicaid to welfare at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

November 15 from 5:15 pm to 6:45 pm: Cooking Smart Class. Crossroads is hosting a free cooking class featuring samples and recipes. At the end of the class, you get a bag full of the groceries to make the recipes we did! Call Elizabeth or Jana to sign-up.

November 16: New Member Orientation at 5:30 pm. Come learn what AHAC is all about and ways that you can become involved.

November 24 beginning at 10am Thanksgiving Give Away at the Indian Walk-In Center. Come by for a turkey!

For more information about any of these events please contact Bill Germundson, Ursula Hernandez, Elizabeth Matthews or Bill Tibbitts at Crossroads Urban Center, 364-7765.

Hunger Is Still Among Us IV

by Sam King

Red tape, rhetoric and politics
Enough to make malnutrients sick
The nouveau riche wanton with greed
Wealthies and heavy healthies
Manipulators, doing what they please
Full disposals and garbage cans
Consume more than some small hands

In a haste to fill satiations
It creates waste, thus frustrations
Hungry sad eyes, bigger than the belly
Throwing away bread because there's no jelly
Dumpsters ful of fruit, meat, veggies and spaghetti
Perpertration of waste is a gross abomination
Frivolous waste of gifts given in abundance is,
A comparable parallel to ignrance and plunderance

Indignant indigents lusting in greed
Overconsuming and wasting what others need
Idly tossing, gifts Heaven sent
Disregarding and hoarding is waste's unrelent
There's so many of (the have plenty's)
Laughing at those who don't have any
High-fiving calling Ethiopian skinnies
Yes!!!

Hunger is still among us
Apathetic waste is also upon us
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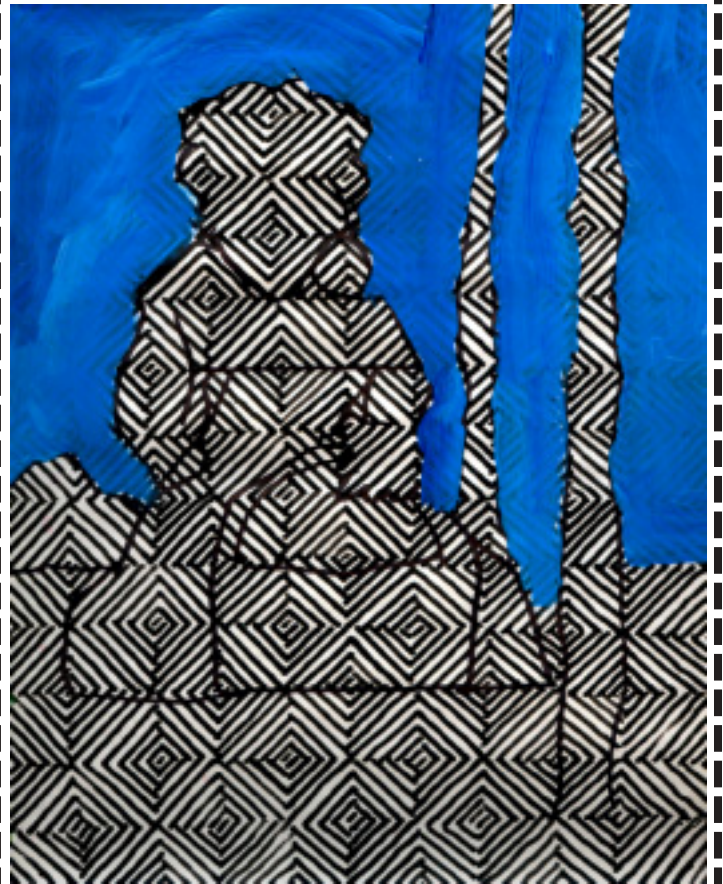


Tim Funk presenting **Rudy Roca** with the Crossroads Advocate of the Year Award. Congratulations Rudy!

Quotations from Dan Smith:

“The participation of the individual man or woman in the social process may be positive or negative. It may build or maintain, transform or destroy values. It may mean, for the individual, joy and success in the discharge of the responsibilities born of relationships — or quasi-slavery to an alien and unwholesome rhythm of work, from which the individual gains no value save the bare fact of existence in relative comfort and to which he brings no creative vision or dynamic intensity. - Dane Rudhyar

“Power concedes nothing without a demand” - Frederick Douglass



Untitled by Mary Torgerson