



the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

Summer 2007

WHY ARE BUS PRICES GOING UP?

On July 1 the price for a trip on a bus managed by the Utah Transit Authority went up to \$1.60. On January 1 that price is scheduled to be raised again to \$1.75. One year after that the price is scheduled to be raised to \$2. UTA is not a for-profit company and so they should not be raising prices simply to make more money. They don't need to raise prices because of budget troubles. With Utah's booming economy UTA appears to have a sales tax surplus of about \$6 million for the first six months of this year.

Since its creation in 1970 UTA has only had two General Managers. Under the direction of the first manager price increases were rare. UTA began with a fee of 25 cents per ride. When the first manager left in the early 1990s the fee was only 65 cents. The current General Manager, John English, has raised prices from 65 cents to \$1.60 in just thirteen years. If the price increase scheduled to take place over the next eighteen months actually happens, he will have succeeded in tripling the price of bus service in just fifteen years.

During the same time period the number of people using bus service declined by 12 percent, even though the population in Utah grew by 24 percent and UTA added Sunday service. Can it be that rising prices are the reason there are now less people using buses in seven days a week than there used to be riding in six days a week?



Don't get confused! On August 26 almost every bus route in Salt Lake County will be changed in some way. Many bus stops will be shut down. Routes will be changed. You may need to make extra transfers to get where you want to go. If you are travelling somewhere by bus that week call 743-3882 to make sure you know how to get where you want to go on time.

FOOD STAMP BENEFITS NEED TO BE INCREASED *by Don Reifsnider*

It would be helpful to know exactly how food stamp benefits are determined. Some people receive only the minimum benefit of \$10 a month. With this they can buy a gallon of milk, a box of cereal and maybe one tiny TV dinner. If we consider that people should eat three meals a day, and that there are at least 30 days in the month, then these people are receiving only eleven cents per meal in food stamps!

Are these benefits being based on what food prices were in 1977 when the current version of the Food Stamp Program was created? Have any of the people who determine food stamp benefit amounts ever been in a grocery store? Prices are high and still rising due to increased costs of fuel.

Food stamp benefits need to be increased significantly to provide more realistic help to low income people. The minimum benefit amount should be at least \$50 a month (remember that the person should be eating about 90 meals per month). This would be about 55 cents per meal.

The U.S. is currently spending over \$2 billion a week on the Iraq war, so how can our government possibly justify not coming up with comparatively few dollars to significantly increase food stamp benefits for low income Americans.

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• **2 Messages from AHAC Board** •

• **Co-chair** *by Darla Ball* •

• **We Need Medicaid Vision Benefits** •

• You should know that you should have your
• eyes checked at least once a year to make
• sure you don't need glasses or need stronger
• glasses or new glasses. Without this help we
• could go blind. Then what would you expect
• us to do? Must I remind you, "We are people
• too?"

• **UTA** •

• These concerns should really be looked into.
• I realize gas is going up but do you have to
• hurt us? This isn't our fault. You think you're
• going to get more people to ride the bus but
• I am sorry to inform you that you will get
• less. I have talked to people who have told
• me that they can't afford to ride because of
• the high rates. What if there is a certain bus
• to be taken to see the doctor or to the store?
• What are we supposed to do? Die?

UTAH POVERTY PARTNERSHIP
Annual Summer BBQ

July 18,2007 from 6 PM to 8 PM
Liberty Park

We will meet at a pavillion in northeast portion of the
park. **This even it free.** For more information call
Bill Tibbitts at 364-7765 ex 131

Faults *by Joey Lee*

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.

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