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# Anti-Hunger Advocate

August 2009

The Anti-Hunger Advocate is brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee. To submit material to the newsletter or find out more, visit: [www.antihunger.net](http://www.antihunger.net)  
801-364-7765



## Want one of these shirts?



We've just received a new batch of "Basic healthcare is not a luxury" T-shirts. Contact Sarah if you'd like one! 801-364-7765, ext. 130 [sarah@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:sarah@crossroads-u-c.org)

## Word from the co-chair

*Don Reifsnider, AHAC co-chair, advocates for Medicaid benefits*

AHAC members have gone to the last seven legislative sessions trying to get full funding for Medicaid dental and vision services. We won a few of those battles, but we lost in the 2009 effort.

[In March, w]e pointed out that it would have taken only one-third of 1% of Utah's "rainy day fund" to cover the funding of Medicaid dental services. The legislature refused to take this microscopic amount of money out of their \$414 million rainy day fund. [Their decision] will cost Utah much more to fund other healthcare services in the near future. Lack of proper preventative dental care can lead to infections and diseases in other parts of the body—sometimes even death.

Healthcare and education are priority one!! Both need to be fully funded, [on an] ongoing basis! It's completely ridiculous that we have to go to the legislature year after year to battle for the same thing—our basic human right to healthcare. This situation prevents us from moving on to other important [advocacy and] human rights issues, and has us all in a stalemate.

Senators and representatives who vote against fully funding Medicaid and other healthcare programs on an ongoing basis are showing unbelievable callousness and stupidity—and are undeserving of anyone's respect! After all, they are not showing us any respect.



Don Reifsnider (above) is co-chair of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee. Don has spent several years advocating on the same issue: dental and vision benefits for Medicaid participants, many of whom are people with low incomes and disabilities.

# What to do about Jim?

President Obama challenged Congress to pass legislation that would make healthcare available to all Americans living in poverty. His deadline was before they went on vacation for the entire month of August. Utah's Representative Jim Matheson was one of seven "Blue Dog" Democrats serving on the Energy and Commerce Committee who prevented that from happening. What can members of the Anti-Hunger Action Commit-

tee do to share the message on our "Basic healthcare is not a luxury" T-shirts with him this month while he is in Utah?

Come to our monthly meeting on August 18 and help us decide!

**Tuesday, August 18 at 5:15 p.m.**

**Crossroads Urban Center**

**347 S 400 E**

**Salt Lake City**

Dinner will be provided. *All are welcome!*



Members of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee enjoyed a barbecue with the community on July 8. Some 500 people attended in support of bringing health insurance to all low-income people.

Clockwise from top left: Bill Germundson, Nate Cram, and Alice Griffin relax after the feast. Volunteers from CB Richard Ellis grill the patties and arrange the fixings. Rudy Roca relaxes after his passionate leading of the national anthem. The community converses over a shared meal and a shared ideal: healthcare for all. Billy McIlrath helps set up before the crowds arrive. This was our biggest barbecue yet! See more pictures at [www.antihunger.net](http://www.antihunger.net)

*The Anti-Hunger Advocate* is a monthly publication of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee, a group that works on poverty issues. We accept submissions of:

- **artwork**
- **poetry**
- **short stories**
- **memories/reflections**
- **puzzles**
- **wordsearches**
- **jumbles**
- **cartoons**
- **jokes**

To submit, contact Sarah at (801) 364-7765, ext. 130, or [sarah@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:sarah@crossroads-u-c.org) This month our featured poem is by Lou Anne Stevenson, co-chair of the AHAC board:

*If Public Transit Vehicles Could Talk*

If public transit vehicles could talk,  
I wonder what they would say,

about traffic and  
the people who ride them,  
on any given day?

I can just imagine all the stories  
they'd tell,  
but I guess nothing different  
than what the riders know well.

They'd have some laughs,  
some aahs and thank-yous  
as well as some complaints.

Because we all know  
that motorists and riders  
oft' times don't act like saints.

I conclude that among  
the operators and riders  
what the vehicles would say has  
already been said,  
if not done in so many words,  
than by expressions which are easily  
read.