

# THE ADVOCATE

## CROSSROADS urban center

Spring 2005

### Federal Budget Cuts and Utah

Almost 350,000 Utahns are either hungry or at risk of hunger. Over 307,000 Utahns do not have health insurance. More than 28,000 Utah families are on waiting lists with their local housing authority for affordable housing. Unfortunately, elected officials in Washington, D.C. are trying to make these problems worse by cutting funding for vital programs that help low income families obtain food, health care and shelter. While they slash funding for programs that help vulnerable members of our community, these same elected officials are sponsoring tax cuts for the very wealthy.

Congress passed a budget resolution on April 28<sup>th</sup> that includes deep cuts to the Food Stamp and Medicaid Programs, as well as other essential services for low income families. The Food Stamp Program helps reduce hunger in Utah by providing eligible families with money on a debit card that they can use to buy food at the grocery store. Use of the Food Stamp Program has increased in Utah by over 50 percent during the past four years. The Medicaid Program helps to reduce the number of uninsured people by providing health insurance for low income people who do not have private insurance. Between March 2001 and March 2005 the number of Medicaid recipients in Utah has grown by 43.2 percent. Sixty-seven percent of these new Medicaid recipients are children. It is important to Utah families that these programs are not cut.

Other programs facing cuts include child care, Head Start, education and training, veterans's benefits, various housing and community development programs, and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program that helps low income mothers and children buy milk and other important food items. If funding for these programs is cut, the number of people

#### Religious Communities Discuss Federal Budget with Sen. Bennett

On Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) held a meeting with Senator Bennett in his Salt Lake City office. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the concerns members of different religious communities have with the proposed federal budget. Representatives from the Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Association met with Sen. Bennett to discuss the impact the federal budget has on our low income neighbors.

The main issues considered were nutrition programs, low income housing, Medicaid, and proposed tax cuts. Sen. Bennett is chair of the U.S. Senate's Agriculture Appropriations Committee, and was encouraged not to cut food stamps or Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. He agreed with the group saying that, considering the high rate of food insecurity in Utah, one of the highest in the nation, it was crucial to save funding for nutrition programs. When discussing low income housing, Bennett said that he has always supported these programs and would continue to do so.

Both Utah Senators Bennett and Hatch, later voted in favor of the April 28th budget resolution (see adjacent article), as did Utah Congressmen Cannon and Bishop.



THREE BISHOPS: As part of our ongoing work to call attention to the federal budget process and its negative impact on low income people, Crossroads and the Utah Poverty Partnership brought together Bishop George H. Neiderauer of the Catholic Diocese of Utah (left), Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah (center), and Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. of the United Methodist Church, Rocky Mountain Conference (right) for a press conference at Crossroads on April 19th. All three religious leaders expressed strong concern about proposals to cut essential services for the poor, while simultaneously cutting taxes for upper income Americans.

#### The Hunger Tour

During the past few months Crossroads Urban Center has worked to educate lawmakers about poverty in Utah and draw attention to the moral implications of budget decisions. An example of our efforts include the Salt Lake County Hunger Tour organized by Crossroads staff and sponsored by Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake Community Action Program and Utahns Against Hunger.

On the Hunger Tour staffers for Senator Bennett and Senator Hatch were taken to visit a food stamp office, a food pantry, and a WIC clinic. The goal of this tour was to educate Utah's Senators about the role these different agencies play in fighting hunger in Utah. During this tour the Senate staff members were able to meet with employees and clients at these sites.

Staff for both Senators said this tour opened their eyes to how many Utahns were facing hunger and how important nutrition programs were to Utah. In coming months Crossroads Urban Center will continue to develop creative ways to highlight the impact of cuts to nutrition and other anti-poverty programs on the lives of our less fortunate neighbors.

in our community who are unable to obtain basic life necessities will grow dramatically.

These cuts to life sustaining programs are being made at the same time that taxes are being reduced for the very wealthy. The House of Representatives recently voted to permanently eliminate the estate tax. Legislation is expected later this year to make cuts to taxes on dividends and capital gains permanent. These tax cuts almost exclusively benefit people whose primary source of income is investments, rather than wages.

Collectively, all the tax cuts in this budget will help make the deficit \$168 billion larger over the next five years than if Congress did not pass a budget at all this year and government funding and tax policy were continued at current levels.

## Utah Poverty Partnership Sponsors Golden Rule Campaign

*“Do to others as you would have them do to you”*

During the past five months, Crossroads and several other area organizations have collaborated on a “Golden Rule” Campaign to promote this fundamental moral value common to all major religious traditions. These groups came together under the umbrella of the Utah Poverty Partnership, a network that began at the People’s Summit on Poverty held in August of 2004. This group has continued as a way for local, grassroots organizations to work together on issues affecting those in poverty. During the state legislative session,

members of the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) asked legislators to sign a pledge card stating that they support the Golden Rule as a basis for all faiths, and because of that, believe that our low income neighbors have a right to food, homes, health care, and economic stability. While there was mixed enthusiasm about signing the card individually, and only twenty elected to do so, a resolution, sponsored by Sen. Fred Fife containing the same language passed both the Senate and the House almost unanimously.

At the official signing of the resolution, both Governor Huntsman and Lieutenant Governor Herbert also individually signed pledge cards. In addition, Sen. Bennett signed the pledge card, becoming the first member of the federal delegation to do so.



**A NEW SIGN FOR CROSSROADS:** If you have come by Crossroads’ main location at 347 S. 400 East recently, you’ve seen our new sign, which features our new logo. The logo emphasizes the “urban” in our name with a silhouette of our historic building. Notice that the light shining out of the window has a cross in it to highlight our Christian heritage. Many thanks to Crowell Advertising and Public Relations for donating the work on this logo.

### *From Where I Sit...*

I see a shared vision of another 40 years of deliberate effort to give hope and opportunity to those in our community. Our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary is upon us. We will give of ourselves tirelessly as we contemplate innovative ways to deliver direct services to our neighbors in need. Our goal has never been to eradicate poverty. It has been to bring as many of us as possible from hopelessness to hope. Today, we are giving assistance to many more than ever before. We have too many members of our community who turn a blind eye to life’s injustices. As we continue to provide services and assistance to the poor, we need to find many more allies.

One fighting against many has hardly ever come out ahead. Crossroads Urban Center has always come forward to say “we will help” to anyone who genuinely needs it. Our best strategy to combat poverty and hunger might well be to join others while inviting others to join us. The buzz phrase of the nineties was “strategic alliances.” We are far from military but we are definitely in a fight. Often the enemy is ignorance, fear and greed. If it were simply rational thought and action, we would not even be in the battle.

For years we have helped individuals and families to provide for themselves. Now, we need to be about finding what we can best provide and doing that at the highest level. In doing so, we must honor that there are allies in our community that

will be using the same strategy to help others. This is truly the way to combine energies and resources to serve those in need. We must share resources while communicating with other agencies to prevent costly duplication of efforts. Forget about the “melting pot” of organizations. Let’s envision a “salad bowl” of community organizations each with its own unique flavor coming together with effective partnering as the “dressing.” Each can remain true to its mission while sustaining a diversity of community building power. For example, we know we cannot make a huge difference in the problem of homelessness. However, we can help by providing a few basic essentials like a bus token, a bag of groceries, a few kitchen utensils and sometimes a few dollars toward a month’s rent.

This is nothing new to Crossroads Urban Center. We have literally always had the support of others such as Utah Issues, Utah Housing Coalition, Utah Non Profit Housing Corporation, just to name a few. We, in time of need, have always been willing to offer a combined effort to be more effective. In the coming weeks, months and years we will create and maintain many more alliances so that we will not grow weary in this never-ending battle. Join us in any way you wish!

Robert “Bip” Daniels  
Board Chairman



### **THE ADVOCATE**

#### **Our Mission**

Crossroads Urban Center is a nonprofit, grassroots organization which assists and organizes low income, disabled, and minority Utahns to meet basic survival needs and to address problems affecting quality of life.

#### **Affiliations**

Our work is privately supported by individuals, businesses, religious congregations, and foundations. Crossroads is also supported by many congregations through the annual Crossroads Bazaar. Established in 1966, Crossroads is a multifaith project related to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, USA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Church of Christ.

#### **Credits**

Chairman:	Robert “Bip” Daniels
Executive Director:	Glenn Bailey
Newsletter Layout & Design:	Jim Hokom

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- Last fall Crossroads welcomed a new US-2 Volunteer, Elizabeth Matthews. US-2's are short term, service oriented missionaries appointed by the United Methodist Church. Our first US-2 was Joe Eding back in 1967.
- The Crossroads Cookbook has recently been published. The Cookbook features recipes from our staff and volunteers that can be made with food commonly distributed in our emergency food packages. Although published for the benefit of our clients, a limited number of the first edition are available for purchase at \$10 each. To get yours, contact Jana at Crossroads.
- We need storage space! Both the food pantry and the Thrift Store are in need of overflow and long term storage space at different times during the year. If you have any ideas, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Glenn at Crossroads.
- Three of our biggest food drives in the past several months were done by students. In October the students of Rowland Hall-St. Mark's, which also hosts our Christmas food give away, brought in 12,682 pounds. In November Redeemer Lutheran School donated 4,120 pounds and, in February students in the University of Utah's LEAP program collected 4,162 pounds of food.
- Send us your e-mail address. One of our goals in the coming year is to start communicating more by email with those who prefer it. Send your email address to Jim at Crossroads to be part of this: jim@crossroads-u-c.org
- The Board of Directors recently adopted a new long range plan for 2005-09. They also elected the following new officers: Bip Daniels, Chairman; Kris Koford, Vice-Chairman; and Stephanie Wilson, Secretary. Pat Sullivan was reelected Treasurer.
- Remember, Crossroads can always use your financial support. In addition to the enclosed remittance envelope, you can donate online and by credit card. Don't forget the Crossroads endowment fund in your estate planning. Thanks!!!

**Speakers available!** Whether you need a dinner speaker, "minute for mission" on Crossroads or one of our advocacy projects, adult education class unit, youth workshop or sermon on poverty or advocacy we have the right person to meet your needs. Call Linda at 364-7765 x133 for more information or to book a speaker.

**CROSSROADS MOURNS THE LOSS OF TWO BOARD MEMBERS EMERITI**

In 1996, Crossroads began the tradition of electing Board Members Emeriti -- Board Members who have retired from active involvement but who are considered "Board Members for Life" by the Board of Directors and staff of Crossroads. Since that time four people have been so honored: Rosemarie Rendon, Bill Chinn, Bella Buckley, and the Rev. Quentin Kolb. Rosemarie Rendon passed away in 1999. This spring, two more of our "Crossroads heroes" died, Bella and Quent.



**Bella Buckley** was on the Crossroads Board from 1990 to 2005. She was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002 by Crossroads, and was a leader in the Salt Lake Citizens Congress, which we founded. Bella was always someone you could count on. As we searched for a photo of Bella, it was difficult to find one where she wasn't somewhere in the background, working behind the scenes to make things happen. In

this photo, she is busy greeting guests to a Crossroads' open house in 1995. Crossroads Board Member Emerita, Bella Marie Buckley, died March 29<sup>th</sup> at her home as the result of a house fire.

**The Community Food Co-Operative of Utah: A New Crossroads Initiative**

Over the past 39 years, Crossroads has played an important role in Utah's nonprofit community by identifying and responding to unmet community needs and spearheading new initiatives and programs. It is in this tradition that Crossroads is launching our newest project: The Community Food Co-op of Utah.

The Community Food Co-op is a monthly food purchasing cooperative that will provide its members a substantial savings on select grocery store quality items - primarily fresh produce and frozen meats - in exchange for two hours of volunteer service. Each month, through a network of volunteers at our warehouse and at individual co-op team sites (i.e., churches, schools, community centers, and civic organizations) food will be delivered to co-op teams for members to pick up on the scheduled day.

Inspiration for the project came in 2003 when Glenn Bailey, Debra Duncan, Mary Ann Allison, and Diane Stockebrand toured a very successful, large food co-op sponsored by the Tampa Bay United Methodist Centers. The experience demonstrated that a food co-op could be an effective way to help low income families stretch their grocery budgets, while at the same time providing an opportunity for people of all socio-economic backgrounds to connect with others and work together to provide healthy, low cost food for themselves and their neighbors.

Last summer we hired a project coordinator, Jana Dickson, to research program models and assess the feasibility of starting a food co-op here in Utah. Since then, we have done extensive research, established relationships with a network of food co-op projects sponsored by other nonprofit service organizations, and even completed a business plan. Now, we are ready to start organizing. With your help, we plan to make the vision of the Community Food Co-op a reality and officially launch this exciting new project in January 2006. **Join us for a Community Food Co-op Open House June 15, 2005 5:30-7:30 pm at Crossroads to kick off our organizing efforts.**

If you are interested in helping or would just like more information, please call Jana at 364-7765 x127. You can also visit our web site (created through a donation by Spy Hop Productions, a nonprofit, multimedia youth education center): [www.crossroads-u-c.org/cfc](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org/cfc)

**Attention all artists, crafters and shopaholics!** The Crossroads Bazaar, our annual fundraising event, is set for Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at Wasatch Presbyterian Church. Flyers and drawing tickets will be distributed in late July. Until then make it a goal to contribute one item to the cause. Get creative! Knit a baby blanket, stencil some note cards, create a holiday decoration or assemble a themed gift basket. Whatever you come up with will be sold to further Crossroads food programs.

**The Rev. Quentin Kolb** was an elected member of the Board for one term from 1997 to 1999. He was also around Crossroads in the late 60's and early 70's when Odyssey House was getting started and used space in our main building. Quent was one the key leaders in our efforts to organize around the



2002 Olympics, and even designed the logo we used for Salt Lake Impact 2002 & Beyond. He was the Director of Urban Indian Support Services in the early 90's among many other pursuits and relationships. Crossroads Board Member Emeritus, Quentin France Kolb, died April 7<sup>th</sup>.

VISIT Crossroads Urban Center on the Internet @

[www.crossroads-u-c.org](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org)



**THRIFT STORE EXPANDS:** The Crossroads Urban Center Thrift Store at 1385 W. Indiana (850 South) in Salt Lake City has a new addition that was completed last fall. A number of other building improvement projects are underway at the Thrift Store under the direction of volunteer work teams. Some of those who've helped so far include .....



- Paul Allison*
- David Jabusch & Family*
- A.J. Jolley & Family*
- Rafael Kyremes*
- Pat & Dixie Lamping*
- Angel Martinez*
- Bev & Chuck Mittelstadt*
- Don Nichols*
- Randy Pearson*
- Dick Williams*

A special "thank you" to all these folks as well as our regular volunteers who keep the Thrift Store running every day.

### NEEDS LIST

The following is a list of things we need most at Crossroads Urban Center. Donations of food, clothing and household goods, time, and money are needed on an ongoing basis.

#### Pantry

Canned pasta  
(Spaghetti-O's,  
Ravioli, etc.)  
Boxed meals  
(Rice-a-roni,  
Noodles,  
Mashed potatoes, etc.)  
Tuna  
Dry snacks  
Small drinks  
Diapers  
(size 3,4,6)

347 South 400 East  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Mon. - Fri.  
(801) 364-7765

#### Thrift Store

Kids' Clothes  
Men's Clothes  
Women's Clothes  
(size 12 and larger)  
Towels  
Blankets/Bedding  
Sheets/Pillows  
Pots/Pans/Ovenware  
Plates/Bowls/Silverware

1385 W. Indiana Ave.(850 So.)  
10:00 AM to 6:30 PM  
Tues. - Fri.  
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Saturday  
(801) 359-8837

*The Thrift Store always needs items in the following categories to sell in order to help raise revenue and continue providing service:*

*Working TV's, radios, microwaves, telephones or modern electronics of any kind.  
Any Collectibles: china, dolls, glassware (including milkglass), silverplate, etc.  
Books & small appliances or anything else that can be sold to help raise money!*

Individuals, community, youth & scout groups are always needed for one-time and ongoing service projects at the Thrift Store and Food Pantry. Donation drives are also helpful. Please call Linda at Crossroads Urban Center (801) 364-7765 x133 to get involved.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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