

# THE ADVOCATE

## CROSSROADS urban center

Spring 2007

### Food Co-op Opens New Warehouse

April 21, 2007 marked the first Distribution Day at the Community Food Co-op of Utah's new warehouse. The warehouse, located at 1469 South 700 West, is the new home for Food Co-op distributions, bagging parties, and other activities. The space offered by the new location will allow team orders to be filled more efficiently and provide a better working environment for our many volunteers.



A view of the April 21<sup>st</sup> Food Distribution being held for the first time at the Community Food Co-op's new warehouse facility located at 1469 South 700 West. See Page 2 for complete contact information.

The new warehouse features a large area for counting and sorting, two loading docks, and two bathrooms. There is also office space for the Food Co-op staff.

This warehouse is an important step for the Food Co-op to become a self-sustaining project. We are still looking for a variety of items to make the warehouse fully functional. See the Warehouse Wish List at [www.foodco-op.org](http://www.foodco-op.org) for a list of needed items.

The staff, volunteers, and members are looking towards a great future. Please join us on Thursday June 14th at 5:30 pm for a "Warehouse Warming" Potluck to celebrate.

**This transition was made possible by a generous grant from the UPS Foundation. THANKS!**

We'd also like to thank the American Express Center for Community Development, the Fieldstone Foundation, the R. Harold Burton Foundation, the Allstate Foundation, the Corporation for National Service, and the United Methodist Church for all their help along the way.

### AHAC Opposes UTA Proposal

The Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC) is in the midst of a campaign to give low income bus riders a voice as the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) undergoes massive bus route changes and system-wide price increases. The proposed route changes would cut bus service in downtown Salt Lake City, which is overwhelmingly populated by renters, almost in half. The proposed fare increases will raise the price of a single bus ride from \$1.50 to \$2 and would raise a monthly bus pass from \$50 to \$67.

AHAC has enlisted the help of city, county and state officials in attempts to delay the proposed route changes and fare increases until an independent analysis can be conducted. Outreach efforts have included organizing bus riders to attend UTA public meetings and hearings to protest these changes, and a Bus Riders Forum where Salt Lake City Mayoral candidates were invited to discuss transportation issues with bus riders.

The proposed route changes are scheduled to go into effect in August 2007. The proposed fare increases are scheduled to go into effect gradually, with the \$2 fare taking effect January 1, 2009.

AHAC members believe that instead of cutting service and raising prices UTA should focus on increasing the number of people who ride the bus. Less than 18,000 people in Salt Lake County use public transportation to get to work. We could double that number in six years by adding just 3,000 new riders each year. To promote increased use of public transportation, AHAC has begun partnering with other organizations and local government to ask the people to sign a "Good Neighbor Pledge" saying they commit to use public transportation for at least one trip per week for the rest of 2007. You can sign this pledge on-line by going to AHAC's blog: [communitiesolutions.blogspot.com](http://communitiesolutions.blogspot.com)



AHAC member Lou Anne Stevenson waits for her ride at a bus stop near downtown. Many stops like this and the bus routes that serve them would be eliminated if proposed UTA Route changes take place as announced.

## Thrift Store Recipient Of Makeover

Thanks to the very generous donation of both materials and labor by Doug Knight, owner of Douglas Knight Construction, the Crossroads Thrift Store will soon have changing rooms where customers can try on clothing. Doug has helped convert the old furnace room at the Thrift Store into two changing rooms. Thanks for all of your help!

The next phase of the Thrift Store remodeling will be to knock down several interior walls in the back of the building to allow more space for sorting. Crossroads recently received a grant from the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Fund of the United Methodist Women to help facilitate this work.

Another big thank you goes to Chuck Middlestadt and others from Christ United Methodist Church, who put a lot of work into relocating the telephone lines and equipment at the Thrift Store to accommodate the renovation work.



## On the road with CORC

CORC members in Parowan discuss strategy in April during the "CORC Spring Road Trip." Crossroads staff met with members of religious communities across the state to educate them about issues affecting low income Utahns and get them involved. For more information about CORC call Linda at 364-7765 ext. 133.

Here's the new info for the  
**Community Food Co-op of Utah**  
 warehouse/offices:  
 1469 South 700 West  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84104  
 phone: (801) 746-7878  
 toll free: 1-866-959-COOP (2667)  
 fax: (801) 975-0336

## From Where I Sit...

I am still encountering a great deal of apathy in our community. It's easy to spot when we deal with the many people who live at or below the poverty levels. As many of you know, the Salt Lake valley has a great number people who work diligently to make ends meet. Some have two and three jobs and still cannot get ahead. These are the people who deserve a hand up as often as we can offer it.

I have caught myself saying to many people that they can make a difference in their own lives simply by taking an active role in their community. I say register and vote. I say attend community meetings and participate. Speak up and do so with vigor at every opportunity. After all, how well can another speak for you?

I spend a great deal of time with people who often feel that nothing they say or do will ever make a difference. Perhaps it doesn't happen fast enough or often enough, but it does happen. I see rule and policy changes in low income and affordable housing communities. I see neighborhoods winning battles with railroads (even if it did take years). I see parks still alive that had been marked for extinction (Pioneer Park). I also see oppressive food taxes finally loosening their grip on working people's budgets. I even see a light at the end of the tunnel for children's health insurance. I do believe that in addition to the lobbying efforts of groups like CORC and AHAC, affected individuals are being heard.

I'm sure many of you have heard the starfish story, but it's worth retelling. A child decided to spend a few moments picking up starfish from the ocean's edge one sunny day. A man jogging along the beach saw him and stopped to remark, "Son, there are starfish stranded all along this beach as far as the eye can see. Do you really think you can make a difference?" The child smiled and picked up a starfish and gently tossed it into the water and said "I'm making a difference for this one!"

Yes, it is difficult to see our community getting better when you look at the community as a whole. If you really look, you will see some change. As you do so, contribute to that change in what you say and what you do! If you need a nudge, ask anyone at Crossroads Urban Center.

Robert "Bip" Daniels  
 Chairman of the Board

**THE ADVOCATE** is a periodic  
 publication of Crossroads Urban Center

**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**

Board Chair:	Robert "Bip" Daniels
Executive Director:	Glenn Bailey
Newsletter Editor & Photos:	Adam Burgett
Newsletter Layout & Design:	Jim Hokom

## Basic Health Care Day Sets Tone For 2007 Legislative Session



AHAC members and others gather at the State Capitol at the beginning of the 2007 Legislative Session.

On the opening day of the 2007 legislative session more than 100 Utahns gathered at the State Capitol to ask legislators to make 2007 the year that Utah starts to solve its health care crisis. These citizen advocates wrote notes and spoke to legislators about the 25% of Utah residents who cannot afford basic health care.

The gathering, which was planned by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee, showed widespread support for health care solutions, as persons from over 20 community and faith organizations were in attendance. By the end of the 2007 General Session the importance of this gathering was noticeable. Medicaid Vision and Dental benefits and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) both received additional funding by the State. AHAC is committed to continuing work to preserve and expand access to basic health care for all Utahns.

## Mobile Homes and SRO's

Low income housing in Utah is becoming even harder to find and keep. The Community Housing Advocacy Project (CHAP) at Crossroads has been developing strategies to preserve Single Room Occupancy hotels (SROs) in Salt Lake City and mobile home parks along the Wasatch Front.

SRO hotels in Salt Lake City house some of the city's poorest but most independent people. They live in SROs because they are cheap, can be rented by the week or month, and are unregulated – which means that a renter can have troubled credit, be an ex-offender, or have other history and still get a place to stay.

Salt Lake City wants to tear down the last three remaining SRO hotels located adjacent to each other on State Street and replace them with condominiums and boutique shops. The City bought these buildings a few years ago and they are the last such housing available in the area. The City has no immediate plans on how to replace the SROs or where the residents could go once the buildings are sold.

Mobile/manufactured housing parks across the state are facing similarly bleak futures. Parks are being closed and lower income residents who own their homes but rent land are being forced out. CHAP is working to try and preserve existing parks and to pass state legislation giving residents greater protection against park closure and eviction. Thus far, residents have been successful in managing the purchase of their small park in mid-Salt Lake Valley by working with the Housing Authority of Salt Lake County. Another resident group in Weber County is attempting to buy their park out right.

Most of the time SRO and mobile home residents get no public subsidy, they simply want an affordable, decent place to live. Housing staff will be working over the next months to preserve the SROs and manufactured home parks to make sure everyone has a choice of where they can live.

## CORC Works to Limit Number of Payday Lending Outlets in Cities/Counties

Payday lending is an industry that offers consumers short term loans at an average Annual Percentage Rate of 521% in Utah. For several years the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) has pushed for stronger regulations of this industry that concentrates in low income communities and near military bases. To illustrate the growing problem that these lenders have become, studies have found that Utah has more payday lending outlets than 7-Elevens, McDonald's, Burger Kings, and Subway Restaurants combined. For all too many, these over priced "short term" loans become long term debt.

With tighter regulations on payday lenders coming at a slow rate on the state level CORC has focused its efforts on regulating these predatory lenders on the local level. The push by CORC volunteers has been to contain growth of the payday lending industry by limiting the number of outlets per capita in cities.

Recently, such an ordinance was adopted in Sandy, where payday lending outlets will be limited to 1 for every 10,000 residents and located at least one mile apart. Similar ordinances can be found in West Valley City, Taylorsville, South Salt Lake, Midvale, Draper, West Jordan, and South Jordan. The West Valley City ordinance that CORC members pushed for has been used as a model for ordinances in over 60 cities nationwide.

Currently, CORC volunteers are working to help Salt Lake City and County officials author ordinances to limit the number of outlets in their respective areas. Also, members throughout the state are being urged to educate their local officials about the predatory nature of this business that traps people in a cycle of debt.

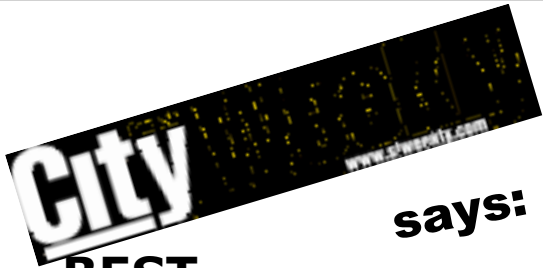


Crossroads' Community Housing Advocacy Project (CHAP) is working with residents in mobile home parks like this one for long term solutions that save people's homes.

VISIT Crossroads Urban Center  
on the Internet @

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





says:

**BEST  
LOW-INCOME ADVOCATE  
Anti-Hunger Action Committee  
Director Bill Tibbitts**

In its 2007 "Best of Utah" Edition, the Salt Lake City Weekly, which annually highlights a wide range of Utah stand outs, picked our own Bill Tibbitts, the Project Director for the Crossroads based Anti Hunger Action Committee (AHAC) as the **Best Low-income Advocate of 2007**. Congratulations to Bill for this well deserved recognition of his leadership in helping improve the lives of low income Utahns.

**VISTA VOLUNTEERS  
STILL NEEDED**



The Community Food Co-op of Utah is seeking an enthusiastic, creative person to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA. This person will help build the Co-op into a self-sustaining community resource. Passion about food security and community is a must. The AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program is run by the Corporation for National Service. VISTAs work with sponsoring agencies in communities across the United States to help further local efforts in alleviating poverty. For more information visit our website at: [www.foodco-op.org](http://www.foodco-op.org)

**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:** beans, soup, tomatoes, veggies, fruit, meat (*Vienna sausages, corn beef, etc.*) chilli, pasta, pork & beans, peanut butter  
**Dry:** rice, cereal, beans, macaroni, boxed meals, mac & cheese, milk (*dry or canned*), snacks, granola bars, crackers, protein bars, etc.  
 Drinks, small & large  
 Hotel size shampoo, lotion, soap, etc.  
 Baby formula & food  
 Diapers size #4  
 Razors  
 Toothpaste & brushes  
 Toilet paper  
 Deodorant  
 Feminine hygiene products

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

**Thrift Store**

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

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 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 and groups are always needed for one-time and ongoing projects at the Thrift Store, Food Pantry, and Food Co-op. Please call Linda at Crossroads Urban Center to get involved.  
 (801) 364-7765

Non-Profit Org.  
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