

THE ADVOCATE

CROSSROADS URBAN CENTER

SPRING

2002



New Leadership Elected for Board of Directors

UHTA Helps Preserve Housing for Low Income Renters

The Crossroads Urban Center Board of Directors acted to expand the size of the Board and elect new officers at their February meeting. Debbie Duncan was elected Chairwoman. Debbie is an intensive care nurse at Cottonwood Hospital and has served on the Board for two years. Debbie replaces Liz Paige, who completed her third term as Chairwoman and has left the Board. Liz is taking on new responsibilities at Rowland Hall- St. Mark's School as the Director of Community Services.

Virginia Walton was re-elected Vice Chairwoman. Lynn Bailey was elected Secretary to succeed Judy Hoidal, who has retired from the Board after 12 years of loyal service. Past-Board Chairman David Pendell will serve as Treasurer, replacing Bella Buckley who remains a Member of the Board. Bill Chinn, a Board Member and long time friend of Crossroads, was named "Board Member Emeritus," joining Rosemarie Rendon and Father Quentin Kolb as the only former Board Members so

You may have noticed people wearing yellow and black buttons with SOS 8 - *Save Our Section 8* - on them. You may have seen them on the news, at city hall, the state legislature or other places. They are part of the SOS 8 Coalition of tenants living in at risk buildings in the Salt Lake area and across the state.

SOS 8 is part of the Utah HUD Tenants Association (UHTA), a Crossroads community organizing project. The coalition is made up low income senior citizens, the physically and mentally disabled, low income working families and single parent householders who are tenants in buildings subsidized by the federal Section 8 housing assistance program.



In the 1960's, 70's and 80's the federal government launched several housing programs to provide subsidized Section 8 rental units. One of the options private owners of those rental units have is that after 15 or 20 years their federal contract obligations expire and they can "opt out" of the programs and convert their units to private market rentals.

SOS 8 is fighting to preserve as many Section 8 rental projects as possible. But the risk of loss is very real. Since 1966, in Utah at least 18 projects with over 1000 units have opted out or otherwise left the various programs.

A study conducted by UHTA and Crossroads in 2000 and updated last December found that in Utah there are at least 93 housing projects with over 4,500 apartment units at risk of being lost as low income affordable housing.

SOS 8 was formed after a group of Section 8 tenants from Utah went to Denver to meet with fellow tenants there. The Utah delegation found out they needed to be more vocal and visible and so they formed the SOS 8 Coalition like the one in Denver. That was in October 2000 and now SOS 8 and its black and yellow buttons are recognized by decision makers throughout the state.

Since early January SOS 8 representatives have met with the Salt Lake City and County Councils and Mayors, a state legislative appropriation committee and Utah Lt. Governor Olene Walker about preserving Section 8 projects.

SOS 8 is being heard! Just recently six at risk projects with 330 units worth \$ 10.5 million were saved when they were sold to Utah Nonprofit Housing Corp. Formal negotiations for the similar sales of three other projects with over 300 Section 8 units are in progress.



Liz Paige and Bill Chinn received recognition on February 6th for years of service as Crossroads Board Members and volunteers. Liz completed three terms as Board Chairwoman. Bill was named the third "Board Member Emeritus" in the agency's history.

Furthering the Cause Social Justice at Crossroads

Staffer Mandi Janis (far right) is pictured with leaders of the St. George United Methodist Women during the recently completed "CORC Road Show" (see article on page 3). Mandi is a US-2 missionary placed at Crossroads for two years by the United Methodist Church. Mandi's work is focused on the expansion of our Anti-Hunger Advocacy Project and the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC). She is also available to do presentations about Crossroads and the US-2 program. If you are part of a church or group that would like to hear Mandi speak, please call her at Crossroads to arrange a time.



Debbie Duncan (left), a long time volunteer in both the pantry and the thrift store, is our new Board Chairwoman for 2002. Debbie is shown here with Thrift Store Manager K.C. Owens (center) and staff member Lori Hanna (right).

Splinters from the Chair

The Board: The Crossroads Urban Center Board of Directors now has a membership of twenty-eight. This is the largest number of Board Members in many years. At our February Board meeting, Glenn Bailey presented retiring Board Members with plaques and a package of Crossroads memorabilia. I want to personally thank the following Board Members who retired:

Judy Hoidal, who served for twelve years;
Liz Paige, our past Chairwoman who is now the Director of Community Services at Rowland Hall-St. Marks;
Bill Chinn who was named the third Board Member Emeritus in Crossroads' history;
Annie Boone who has moved to Utah County; and
Robyn Matheson who completed her term of office.

The 2002 Legislature: The 2002 Legislature attempted to fit a 35 day session into 22 days. There was at least one upside to this – no major bills surfaced for us to fight against! Appropriations and budget cuts were the main focus of the session. The Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC), with Linda Hilton as Project Director, focused on affordable housing and tax equity.

Utah Jobs with Justice: At our March Board meeting we voted to join Utah Jobs with Justice. Jobs with Justice (JwJ) is a coalition of faith-based, community and student organizations and individuals dedicated to supporting community struggles to build a just society. In its work JwJ gives priority to struggles involving low wage workers, immigrants, people of color, women and youth. I think Crossroads' involvement with JwJ will help us move toward our constant goal of decent pay, decent jobs and decent education.

Thrift Store: The Thrift Store continues to provide free clothes and household items for needy families and individuals. It also serves as a low cost store for local shoppers. Actually the Store gives away seven times as much as it sells. It serves a mighty mission in this city. We are indebted to our Thrift Store Manager K.C. Owens for all the extra time she puts into making the Store a real service center.

We recently hired a consultant, Lynne McCue-Hamilton, to enhance the image of the Store, to improve the effectiveness of the Store, to get out publicity about the Store, and to involve more people in giving time and money to the Store. The Thrift Store needs to replace its truck. A VAN is our vehicle of choice! In the near future we expect to hire an architect to develop remodeling plans for the Parmalee Center in 2003. Our hope is to improve efficiency and service.

The Food Pantry: The Pantry continues to be the busiest in the state. Rachel Fischbein, the Pantry Director, tells us the number of people served keeps increasing with each month. Money for the Emergency Fund has been increased by 69% for 2002. This fund is used to provide prescriptions, gasoline, rent, utilities and bus passes. The Pantry is also working overtime helping people obtain food stamps and other assistance.

2002 Bill of Rights Celebration: On May 2nd, the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah hosted its annual Bill of Rights Celebration. Crossroads Urban Center Executive Director Glenn Bailey was honored as the recipient of the Renie Cohen Memorial Award!!

Submitted by
Debbie Duncan
Board Chairwoman

THE ADVOCATE

Our Mission

Crossroads Urban Center is a non-profit, 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

Chairwoman:	Debbie Duncan
Executive Director:	Glenn Bailey
Newsletter Layout & Design:	Jim Hokom



Rev. Mary Allen of Grace Episcopal Church in St. George signs a petition to the Governor regarding needed improvements in the Food Stamp Program in Utah.

Volunteers Expand CROSSROADS' Anti-Hunger Advocacy

Last year, thanks to grants from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and the United Methodist Church, Crossroads was able to expand its 36 year commitment to anti-hunger advocacy by creating a new Anti-Hunger Advocacy Project (AHAP). AHAP has worked to help individual clients get the food stamp benefits they are entitled to receive, convince the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) to improve the way it treats families that do not speak English, monitor the Food Stamp Program to ensure food stamps are issued on time, lobby Congress to reauthorize and improve the Food Stamp Program, and assist other food pantries to conduct food stamp outreach.

In all of these efforts we have had assistance from volunteers and friends of Crossroads Urban Center. For example, most of the individual clients we were able to help with food stamp cases were informed about AHAP either by volunteers at the food pantry or by volunteers who were conducting interviews of food stamp clients at DWS offices. We have had direct support of our lobbying efforts on food stamp reauthorization through the AHAP Policy Network. The Policy Network is an e-mail group that is asked to spend two to five minutes contacting Utah policy makers about anti-hunger issues approximately twice a month. You can obtain more information about the Policy Network by going to the Crossroads web site at www.crossroads-u-c.org.

Our most exciting effort to involve more people in anti-hunger advocacy is the creation of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC). AHAC is composed primarily of low income individuals who initially came to Crossroads for food or other assistance. In the few short months of AHAC's existence our members have appeared on television and radio, met with the the Governor's office, and collected hundreds of signatures on a petition requesting specific improvements to Utah's Food Stamp Program.

CORC Spring "Road Show" a Success

During April, the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) went on the road to meet with members around the state and gather input on our issues platform for the next 12 months. Project Director Linda Hilton and Mandi Janis visited Ogden, Tooele, Vernal, Cedar City, Parowan and Richfield. Meetings were held to discuss and evaluate our past work and present new issues for consideration. People were also made aware of work being done by our Anti-Hunger Advocacy Project at Crossroads, and were given the opportunity to sign a petition to the Governor asking for reforms in the Food Stamp Program in Utah.

On April 20th, CORC members from the Wasatch Front gathered in Salt Lake City for their annual planning meeting. CORC member Dorothy Owen gave a wonderful presentation on understanding the tax system. Member Erin Litvack gave us an update on the future of hate crimes legislation.

At the conclusion of our meeting and after tallying the results of surveys from around the state, the following issues platform was adopted for 2002-03:

Top State Issues:

- 1) Regulation of the Payday Loan Industry;
- 2) State Earned Income Tax Credit; and
- 3) Adequate Funding for the Olene Walker Housing Trust Fund.

Other Issues to Watch and Support:

- Income Tax Bracketing;
- Removing Sales Tax on Food;
- Tax Impact Statements; and
- Hate Crimes.

National Priority: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization

As you can see there is lots to do. Anyone who is interested in joining CORC and helping to address these issues should call Linda or Mandi at 364-7765.

A BIG thank you to Zion Lutheran Church



in Salt Lake City for donating a new van to the Crossroads Thrift Store. The keys for the van will be given to Crossroads during services on Sunday, June 9th at Zion (1070 S. Foothill Dr.) Thanks again for this generous and much needed gift!

www.crossroads-u-c.org



Crossroads Urban Center on the Internet!
for several years now internet services have been graciously provided to us by Utah's own

XMISSION





Thrift Store volunteers extraordinaire Chandler and Jeanne St. John (left) and Bev and Chuck Mittelstadt. Crossroads couldn't survive without our many wonderful and dedicated volunteers. To volunteer in the pantry or the thrift store programs, please see the contact information listed below.

Food for Thought

Everyone knows that Crossroads gives away tons of food each year, but did you ever stop to think about the food related items we also give our clients? Many of our homeless clients are in need of plastic silverware with which to eat food out of the can. Those packets with plastic silverware and a napkin you often get at the drive through window are ideal! We also need small, manual can openers. Without one, what good is a can of chili?

Clients who are transitioning from homelessness into apartments, starting new households, or immigrating to Utah are in need of silverware, dinner plates, bowls, cups, pots and pans. If you were fixing dinner for your family, what kitchen items would you need? Used items that are clean and in good condition are always needed.

And if anyone has contacts that would like to donate NEW brown paper bags or shopping bags to put all these items in that would be helpful too!

NEEDS LIST

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

PANTRY

Peanut butter
Dry snacks
Rice & Pasta
Dry milk (1-2 pound boxes preferred)
Canned milk
Fresh milk
Frozen meat
Baby formula (especially Enfamil with iron)
Hotel size shampoos & lotions
Disposable razors
Canned pasta
Canned soup
Canned stew & Chili
Toothbrushes &
Toothpaste (small)
Large diapers

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

Thrift Store

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

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

The Thrift Store needs items in the following categories to sell through the "Treasure Room" in order to help raise revenue to 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 needed for one-time and ongoing projects at the Thrift Store and Food Pantry. Please call Linda at Crossroads Urban Center to get involved.
 (801) 364-7765

