

# THE ADVOCATE

CROSSROADS URBAN CENTER

FALL

2002



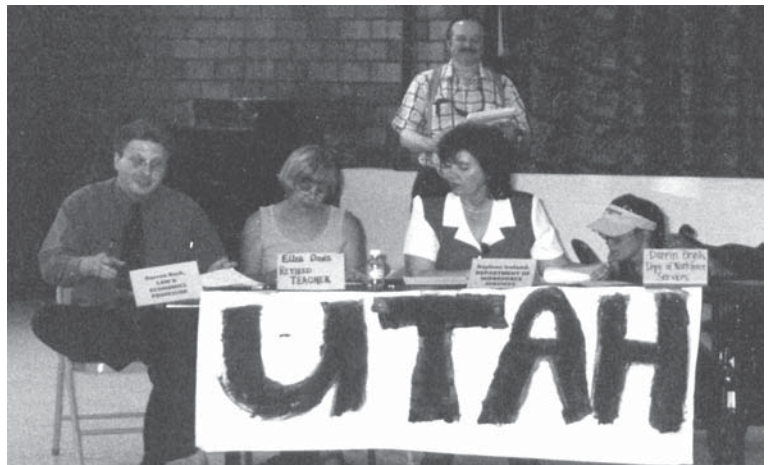
## Anti-Hunger Action Project Gets Results

A recent report by the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University estimates that 4.5% of all Utahns experienced hunger between 1998 and 2000. This ranks Utah 4th nationally in terms of the percentage of residents living with hunger. With annual caseload increases in our emergency food pantry of approximately 35% over the past two years, this situation is no surprise to the staff and volunteers at Crossroads Urban Center.

Over the past year, Crossroads Urban Center's Anti-Hunger Action Project has been able to successfully advocate for several positive changes to the Food Stamp Program in Utah to help alleviate hunger in our state. These changes include:

- Convincing the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) to translate food stamp notices into Spanish. This change should bring DWS into compliance with federal regulations and make the Food Stamp Program more accessible to Spanish speaking households with limited English proficiency.
- Pressuring DWS to change its policy on reporting food stamp applicants to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) so that the policy complies with federal regulations. DWS will now only report a member of a food stamp household to INS if that household member submits forged immigration documents to DWS. This change should reduce the fear many immigrant households feel when applying for food stamps for eligible children.
- Suggesting that DWS conduct food stamp outreach to all school children in Utah's public schools and helping DWS to design those outreach materials. According to DWS, around 45 percent of eligible Utah households are not receiving food stamps. Outreach in the school system will help to inform hungry Utahns that they may be eligible to receive food stamp benefits.
- Obtaining a commitment from DWS to shorten and simplify the public assistance application for Utah. Project staff are currently involved in the process DWS has put in place to work on this issue.

Another exciting aspect of this Project is the development of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC). AHAC organizes low income individuals and their allies to take action on their own behalf to improve the social safety net and promote better jobs. DWS made its commitment to shorten and simplify Utah's public assistance application at an event organized by AHAC.



At this event, the Food Stamp Challenge, the Executive Director of DWS, Raylene Ireland (*see photo*) unsuccessfully attempted to complete Utah's 10 page food stamp application within fifteen minutes. During the same time period, people from other segments of the community completed simpler food stamp applications from other states.

Many thanks to MAZON: A Jewish Response To Hunger, the United Methodist Women's Call To Prayer and Self-Denial Fund, and the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church for helping to fund this project.

## Crossroads Bazaar

Saturday  
October 12, 2002  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Christ United Methodist Church

2375 East 3300 South

**Booths:** Holiday, Baby,  
Boutique, Sweets 'n Treats,  
White Elephants, Plants,  
Books, "Crossroads Treasures"  
Silent Auction  
& Lunch

**Admission:** \$1 or 1 can of food

## OPEN HOUSE

and

### Volunteer Recognition

Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Program 6:00 pm

Crossroads Urban Center

347 South 400 East

## UHTA & SOS 8 Save Hundreds of Homes

Hundreds of low income renters of federally assisted apartment projects in Utah are living a little more peacefully because their homes have been saved. Through the efforts of the Utah HUD Tenants Association (UHTA) and the Save Our Section 8 Coalition (SOS 8), seven projects with 330 apartments have been preserved as permanently affordable. Private nonprofit housing organizations have purchased the projects from private owners which means the low income, subsidized tenants in the projects can live there as long as they choose.

Another four projects with over 400 units may be saved in the near future. All together the eleven projects are worth \$35 million or more. However, in Utah another 90 projects with over 4000 units remain at risk.

A special thanks to the Catholic Diocese of Utah and the U.S. Catholic Conference for three years of funding through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. We couldn't have done it without you!



### *Splinters from the Chair*

**Thrift Store:** We have a new truck. OK, it's a used van, but it is NEW to us. The Thrift Store now has a one-ton panel van to replace the OLD Box Truck that ran mostly "on a wing and a prayer." The money to purchase this van was donated by Zion Lutheran Church. We appreciate their generosity and we really like the van.

KSL has again donated funds for the Thrift Store to purchase and give away new shoes for kids aged 2 through 14. The project began August 20<sup>th</sup> and will continue until all the money has been spent. These funds have been given to Crossroads by KSL for several years. We are thankful for their help.

**NEW RECORD:** K.C. filled vouchers for 54 families in ONE day (9/5). This surpasses the previous number by 19! At this rate, K.C. will need a whole new box of pens.

**The Main Office:** The main office is having some badly needed work done. The project will include a major update of the upstairs bathroom. Expect to see new plumbing, new flooring, replacement of crumbling walls, and a new light fixture. There will be new floor coverings in both the print room and in the entry way. And the main water line will be replaced from the street. Outside projects include replacing the sign over the front door and painting exterior wood as needed. The project is scheduled for completion by mid-October.

**The Endowment Fund:** Crossroads is investigating methods to increase the amount of the Endowment Fund. We now have an Endowment Fund Advisory Committee, which is composed of Board Members Lynn Bailey, Erin Litvack, Jay Vestal and moi. Also serving on the committee are new volunteers Dennis Bayes, Robert Edgar, Shawn Gensch, Craig Voegeli and Greg McDonald. We are still looking for additional help from legal and financial circles. The committee is seeking corporate donors and individuals who would like to contribute to this fund. They would be happy to hear your input.

**The Food Stamp Challenge:** The Food Stamp Challenge was held in June. Law professors, clergy, school teachers, government bureaucrats and others filled out welfare applications from Arizona, Florida, Oregon and Utah. The challenge was to complete the state's form in less than 15 minutes. The finding was that Utah had one of the hardest forms to complete at all -- let alone in under 15 minutes. The Anti-Hunger Action Committee is still asking the question: "Why is the application for a concealed weapon permit shorter and easier to fill out than the application to help get food for your family?"

**A Small Victory:** With input from CORC and the Anti-Hunger Advocacy Project, the Food Stamp Program reauthorization process in Congress is finished, with several improvements made to the program. Among these improvements was the restoration of benefits to many immigrants.

**C'mon Down:** There will be an Open House on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers will be recognized for their efforts in keeping Crossroads alive and well. I invite all of you to come down and visit with us. Look over our improvements. Give us your input.

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

## CONTEST TO RENAME THE CROSSROADS THRIFT STORE????!!



The Crossroads Thrift Store, currently located in the Virginia B. Parmalee Community Center at 1385 W. Indiana Ave. (850 South), was established in December 1966 and is our oldest program.

Recently, we have been wondering if the name “thrift store” really reflects what we do. Sure, we sell clothing and household items at the lowest prices in the city, but we also serve over 10,000 men, women, and children each year with free items. Last year we gave away more than seven times the amount of stuff that we sold. The problem is that we have no idea what else we’d call the “Thrift Store.”

Between now and the end of 2002, Crossroads Executive Director Glenn Bailey will be taking your suggestions. We may end up deciding not to change the name at all, but if we use your suggestion, you will receive a 50% discount on all items purchased by you at the store for the rest of your life.

Call in or send your ideas to Glenn at Crossroads’ main office (364-7765). Please be sure to include a way to contact you in case you are the lucky winner!



Crossroads Board Members Bill Germundson, Rudy Roca, Mary Ann Allison, and Janice Jones Schroeder at the annual Crossroads Board Retreat in May. The focus of the retreat was on our Thrift Store program.

## AN UPDATE FROM THE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (CORC)

The Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) had a busy summer. We followed the progress of our national priority issue, reauthorization of Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), and planned candidate forums for the upcoming November elections. In coordination with a national religious organization, CORC sponsored a press conference in May at which representatives from 15 faith communities asked Utah’s U.S. Senators to support legislation for low income families that is necessary and fair, like adequate provision for quality childcare, so families can move towards self-sufficiency. This event was followed up by personal meetings with Senator Hatch and staff members for Senator Bennett. At these meetings, CORC was able to again explain our hopes for TANF legislation, including the exclusion of a “super waiver” which would give states greater power to reduce benefits and services in a variety of public assistance programs such as the Food Stamp Program.

In November the entire Utah House of Representatives, much of the Utah State Senate, and all three of Utah’s U.S. House seats are up for election. So that constituents can become informed voters, CORC has scheduled six Candidate Forums for early fall. Forums are scheduled for Tooele, Park City, Bountiful, West Salt Lake Co., Northeast Salt Lake Co., and Southeast Salt Lake Co. In addition to the voter education taking place through each of these forums, CORC has also solicited responses to candidate surveys. If you would like the Candidate Comparison for your district, please contact Linda or Mandi at 364-7765.

With the Utah Legislative Session right around the corner, stay tuned for CORC’s plans and let us know if you would like a speaker for your group on how you can get involved in finding solutions to our community’s problems.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Thanksgiving Turkey Give Away**  
 Wednesday, November 27th  
 10 AM to 3:30 PM  
 Indian Walk-In Center  
 (120 West 1300 South)

**Christmas Food Basket Give Away**  
 Monday, December 23rd  
 10 AM to 3:30 PM  
 Rowland Hall-St. Mark’s School  
 (970 East 800 South)

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

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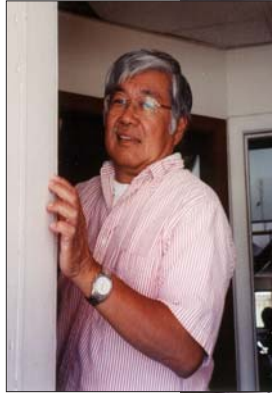
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**WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

Many thanks to community groups and businesses who have helped this summer. Discover Card did a HUGE juice and bottled water drive to help keep our clients hydrated during the hottest part of the summer. Six hearty American Express employees and friends cleaned and painted the pantry. The Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club continues to keep the baby cupboard going with supplies and money. Many Eagle Scouts had food and clothing drives. It all adds up to making a big difference for Crossroads!

Summer youth mission trips are popular activities. Colorado youth groups from Highlands Ranch United Methodist Church (UMC) and Olathe UMC contributed over seven days of volunteer labor to Crossroads. They painted, landscaped, cleaned, sorted, repaired, stocked, hauled, and created a new children's room at the Crossroads Thrift Store. A special thanks to Christ United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City for housing the work teams.

Volunteers from Olathe UMC are shown at right painting and stocking the pantry at Crossroads.



**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**

- Dry snacks
- Rice
- Pasta
- Canned milk
- Dry milk (1-2 pound boxes preferred)
- Ramen noodles
- Peanut butter (smaller jars)
- Canned soup
- Canned pasta
- Baby formula (especially Enfamil with iron)
- Hotel size shampoos, lotions & soaps
- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes &
- Toothpaste (small)
- Large diapers # 3, 4, 5

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

**Thrift Store**

- Coats
- Towels
- Kids' Clothes
- Pots/Pans/Ovenware
- 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 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 and Food Pantry. Please call Linda at Crossroads Urban Center to get involved.  
(801) 364-7765

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