

the

Anti-Hunger Advocate

July 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 801-364-7765

All invited to free BBQ

Dennis Keating, board member on the Anti-Hunger Action Committee, reflects on past celebrations and invites you to this year's July 8 barbecue

We had a great time last year at the annual Utah Poverty Partnership barbecue. This year is going to be even better. So please come and invite all your friends.

I had a good time emcee-ing the show last year and HARDNOSING the politicians we invited. One candidate was an incumbent and I asked her what she was going to do differently this time around. She looked at me and said, "You would ask that question, wouldn't you?"

I smiled and said yes.

She went on to say she believed in more openness in government, and she would do more to hear from the public.

Lots of people came last year, and we heard all the candidates talk. Our theme this year is bringing healthcare to everyone living in poverty. This is something I hope to see worldwide.

What we do today will affect lives tomorrow. We might be slowed down by quicksand but we won't be

stopped.

I'm just going to keep on going, because I like helping people, and giving back, because I have been really blessed.

This year's barbecue is going to be better because of people like you. Let's go out and make it bigger and

Health, for everybody

Health, don't skip anybody

Health, for everyone

Health!

When I was younger and much stronger than today

I never worried about my health in any kind of way
Now I'm older and I'm not so self-assured
So now's the time to change our minds and give healthcare to the poor.

Healthcare for the people feeling down
We don't want to be

stuck down into the ground
We do appreciate you coming 'round

Won't you please help us be healthy, healthy

To see our group perform a trial run of the song, visit:

www.antihunger.net

FREE BARBECUE
Wednesday, July 8
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Liberty Park
Rice Terrace
northeast section



better.

Thank you.
--Dennis Keating, AHAC board member (Dennis is a big fan of The Beatles, and enjoys playing their songs on his guitar. He will accompany a sing-along at the barbecue. Here are the lyrics to one of the songs we'll be singing this year. It is to the tune of The Beatles' "Help!":)

If you receive this newsletter in the mail, enclosed are three invitations to the barbecue. Please pass these out to friends, neighbors, family, etc. Invite at least three more people to attend!

Notes from AHAC board co-chair

Lou Anne Stevenson shows how easy it is to join AHAC and volunteer with the group

In our June board meeting we changed our bylaws and our mission statement. We made these changes to clarify who is welcome in AHAC. Since AHAC is an *action* committee, we wanted to make sure that everyone on the committee was included and had something they could do.

With these changes our mission statement now says: "The Anti-Hunger Action Committee is a membership organization for food pantry clients, advocates and volunteers that organizes low-income people to take action on poverty issues, educates

low-income people about available resources and provides opportunities to become more involved in the community."

[Our bylaws used to require members to volunteer with AHAC one hour a month. Now we are more specific about the kind of help we need. If AHAC members could commit to handing out at least three copies of our newsletter each month, we can help more people learn about our exciting and passionate advocacy efforts! Of course, if a member would prefer to volunteer an hour in a dif-

ferent capacity, that would count as their monthly membership duty.]

Our bylaws now say in Article II: "To become a member of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee a person must sign an annual pledge card committing to hand out three copies of the newsletter each month and/or volunteer at least one hour each month for the Anti-Hunger Action Committee or a food pantry."

We welcome everyone to get involved in AHAC events and join our anti-poverty efforts. Call Sarah at 801-364-7765, ext. 130 for info.

AHAC brings social change to churches, community

by Laine C. Gardinier, AHAC board member

The Anti-Hunger Action Committee has been a leader in advocating for justice for those in Utah who live in poverty. AHAC is the fortunate recipient of a grant through the SDOP (Self Development of People) which provided, among other things, electronic equipment for us to use in our community-wide anti-poverty presentations.

I am proud to be a part of AHAC, and one of my favorite ways to volunteer is to assist Sarah Martindell

and Linda Hilton of Crossroads Urban Center and CORC (the Coalition of Religious Communities) in the presentation of information about poverty in Utah and related issues to various church fellowship hours and groups.

A recent focus of the coffee-hour talks has been healthcare. I inform the participants about U.S. Senator Max Baucus's (D-Mont.) Call to Action Health Reform 2009 plan which would extend eligibility criteria for

Medicaid. Participants at the AHAC/CORC talks are very concerned about how they can help others and ask many excellent and insightful questions, clearly wanting to fight poverty and injustice in their own ways. I appreciate the guests' level of activity and how interested everyone is in the topic. It is truly a pleasure and honor to be able to present this information and help be a catalyst for positive change, a role that CORC and AHAC both fill.



LEFT: The Anti-Hunger Action Committee, Coalition of Religious Communities, seven faith leaders, and other community members participated in a press conference on June 24. These advocates declared that their first priority in healthcare reform is insuring low-income people. One pastor read a sign-on letter addressed to Utah's senators. The conference was a major event in AHAC's ongoing campaign to expand Medicaid eligibility. Next event, see page 1.