



*the* **ANTI-HUNGER  
ADVOCATE**

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee

May 2008

## **MEDICAL DEBT IN SALT LAKE CITY: Please come to forum on May 28**

On Wednesday, May 28, the Anti-Hunger Action Committee will be hosting a forum to share the results of a survey we have been working on. In this survey we interviewed hundreds of food pantry clients to find out how rising healthcare costs were impacting low income Utahns.

Conducting these surveys we have met people who have had healthcare bills sent to collection agencies and been forced to go without food or other basic necessities to pay for healthcare. We have even met people whose marriages have been ended by the pressures of medical debt.

We have invited elected officials who can do something about this problem to come to the forum. Several have promised to either come themselves or to send a staff person to come in their places.

In addition to presenting the results of our study, an attorney will be present at the meeting to talk about the rights of people who have had a medical bill sent to a collection agency. We will also have time for people directly impacted by this issue to share their stories.

If you have a story about medical debt that you would like to share at this meeting please call Bill Tibbitts at 364-7765 so that we can place you on the meeting's agenda.

### *Medical debt in Salt Lake City*

**Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 PM  
Salt Lake City Main Library  
4th Floor Conference Room**

Thousands of low income people in Salt Lake City are suffering because of medical debt.

What rights do they have?

What can our elected officials do about this problem?

For more information about this public meeting contact Bill Tibbitts at 364-7765 ex 131 or [bill@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:bill@crossroads-u-c.org)

**The Anti-Hunger Advocate** is a monthly newsletter of the Anti-Hunger Action Committee.

**Our Mission:** *The Anti-Hunger Action Committee is a membership organization for food pantry clients and their friends 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.*

**Submissions:** To submit an item to the newsletter, contact us at: [bill@crossroads-u-c.org](mailto:bill@crossroads-u-c.org) or 364-7765.

To join AHAC fill out the pledge card stapled to paper editions of this newsletter



To get a “Basic healthcare is not a luxury bumper sticker, refrigerator magnet or button call AHAC at 364-7765.



## HEALTHCARE ACTION STEP FOR MAY 2008

**HELP INVITE GOVERNOR JON HUNTSMAN JR. TO THE MAY 28 PUBLIC MEETING ON MEDICAL DEBT IN SALT LAKE CITY AT 6:30 PM IN THE SALT LAKE CITY MAIN LIBRARY**

A study conducted by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee shows that many low income families have to choose between paying for healthcare and paying for food and other basic necessities. Most of the families we interviewed have had a healthcare bill sent to a collection agency. On May 28 we will be sharing the results of this study at a public meeting in the Salt Lake City Library. Governor Huntsman is leading efforts to reform Utah's healthcare system and so it is important that he comes to this meeting himself or sends a staff person. Please help us invite him by sending him a letter or email asking him to attend this important meeting.

### **Write Governor Huntsman:**

Governor John Huntsman, Jr.  
State Capitol Complex  
East Office Building  
Suite E220  
PO Box 142220  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

**To send an email go to the Governor's website:**  
[http://governor.utah.gov/goca/form\\_governor.html](http://governor.utah.gov/goca/form_governor.html)