



the ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Brought to you by the Anti-Hunger Action Committee September 2004



Deeda Seed directs the Health focus group.

People's Summit on Poverty A Success

On Saturday, August 28, more than 100 people gathered for The People's Summit on Poverty. This event was organized by Crossroads Urban Center and sponsored by several groups, including the Anti-Hunger Action Committee. The goal of the summit was to bring people from different parts of the community together to talk about what issues matter to low income Utahns and talk about how we all can work together to begin to solve those problems.



Several AHAC members discuss the results of their discussion groups.

People in attendance included representatives from 18 different community groups and several different faith communities. "Learning about what's going on already and learning about what I can do to get involved is really exciting" said Shannon Gillespie of the Bennion Center. Archie Archuleta, the keynote speaker for the event added, "I was pleasantly surprised to see people here I had seen before and people I had never seen before. The feeling of people who want to get things done is a tremendous one."

Living Wage Petition Update!!

The Living Wage Petition that AHAC is circulating to present to the County Council is going very successfully. Dorothy Lane (*pictured in action, right*), an AHAC member, has gotten over 200 signatures on the petition! She is a great example of community action. As of August 30, we have over **520 signatures** on the petition!

If you would like to become involved in the fight for a Living Wage in Salt Lake county, or for a copy of the petition, call AHAC at 364-7765.





A Message From AHAC Co-Chair Darla Ball:

I was at the candidate forum at St. Marks church on the 17th with Ralph Becker. You should tell your representatives and legislators to let them know.

For example, we can let them know about Medicaid, and that we need jobs, housing and food stamps, things like that. It can't be done by only one person, it has to be us all. The candidate forums were a good opportunity to learn about our representatives and I feel happy that I could learn more about the candidates and what they are trying to do for people in AHAC. I know that it will make you happy too.

The eternal flame finally went,
died out,
Extinguished like so many hopes,
Dreams, aspirations, desires not
well thought out.

Still I possess want and will
Constantly have needs, lacking
skill.

Content I could find myself
Attired in a cheap ill fitting suit,
Happy with a new pair of boots.

Was I predetermined, predestined
For true everlasting love to
Be within
Reach and still be elusive?

To learn, to love, to laugh...
To live live,
Is it exclusive?

Hunger Is Still Among Us pt. II

Men, women and children
Standing in the soupline
It's an hour and a half
Before the serving time
Will work for food
Scribbling of a magic marker
It's a crude cardboard sign
Mankind, waiting, anticipating to dine

You can feel the sadness,
It's in each hungry eye
These are the have nots
Unfortunate impoverished souls
No land, no home, no clothes or gold
Spirits that prosperity compromised
A small child, she doesn't smile
Hearing and fearing the stomach monster's
growl.

Why is there hunger among us?
There's rivers and streams
Forest, farms, ranches
Fruits from orchard branches
Oceans, plains, wheat fields
Silos packed with grains
Cornfields tall and dense.

Yet hunger is still among us
It really doesn't make sense.

- Sam King (c), 8/26/04

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

Our Mission: AHAC organizes low-income individuals and their allies to take action on their on behalf to improve the social safety net and promote better jobs.

Submissions: To submit an item to the newsletter, please contact AHAC at 364-7765.

Previous editions of the newsletter are available at www.crossroads-u-c.org.

“I Coulda Been A Contender”

AHAC Member Chris Atkins Takes a Fresh Look at the Living Wage Issue in Utah

On July 26, 2004 Mayor Rocky Anderson signed legislation to help increase the “lower end” working man’s wage. The so called “living wage” according to Federal guidelines is \$9.15 per hour. This legislation will give any company that bids on a city contract a 2 point overall if its standard operating procedures meets all of the criteria of the new legislation.

I like this legislation because it provides incentive for both the companies and the working man to improve the way they do business. The company, if it will hire those that graduate apprenticeship programs in the different trades, will have an advantage come bid time.

The 2 point advantage given to those companies who were willing to pay the living wage is considered to be a major victory for AHAC and other community based groups that worked hard to get Mayor Rocky Anderson’s attention. Hats off to AHAC and the mayor for getting something done.

The question is... will the working man get involved in these programs and do the necessary work to qualify for this better wage? Will he get out and vote for the candidate (regardless of party) who works for bringing new jobs to Utah and better education for an adult trying to get ahead.

If we don’t vote for candidates who are pro human development and who pass legislation to help the working man to get his, then we don’t “have a pillow to cry on.” We have to be willing to *contend* for our needs and cote those who are willing to give a hand up instead of a hand out.

I hesitate to use this analogy because we (the working man and woman) do have good friends in government; but, my experience has been that if you sit back and let the bully do what he wants he will do exactly that. What he wants! I have heard people in power admit that they abused their power simply because *they could*.

The local, state, and federal governments are much bigger than we are individually. Unless we do everything we can do as individuals (education, voting) and then come together acting as one we will never “be a contender” for the life we truly want.

Let’s not be like the old and worn out fighter who looks back in his life at his choices and says “I coulda been a contender”. Let’s get out and vote! Let’s get educated and drug free! Let’s get the life we truly want!!



Chris Atkins testifying at a Public Hearing in April.

Douglas Cotant’s Joke of the Month

When I went to the Village Inn Restaurant, I asked the waitress, "Ma'am, if this is the Inn; where's the Village?"



AHAC Upcoming Events Calendar:

- Sept. 03,** 12PM-1PM KRCL’s Live Discussion on “Labor and the Living Wage” at Sugar Beats, 2106 S. 1100 E.
- Sept. 16,** 5:30 PM - AHAC Board Meeting, Crossroads
- Sept. 16,** 6:30 PM Meeting of the AHAC Living Wage Committee
- Sept. 17,** 2 PM County Mayoral Forum, Jubilee Center
- Oct. 02,** 9 AM-2 PM Crossroads Urban Center Annual Bazaar (2015 E. 8890 S.)
- Oct. 08,** 2 PM-6 PM Autumn Housing Fair, Liberty Senior Center 262 E. 700 S. Salt Lake City.

What is the language of flowers?
do they whisper to humming birds, bees or butterflies?

Can they tell their smells?
to a child’s sunlit mind, maybe
to a spellbound poet, whose imagination
has been oiled and stretched.

Being coyly flititious, the leaves are
chattering to me.

Thoughts are my gardening tools.
The products of the mind are organic.
They smell of nectar, rose petals,
and fresh soil.

- John Gordon

A Little Something about the Phillipines

by Rudy Roca

During the Spanish expedition headed by Ferdinand Magelan enroute to the Pacific they discovered a group of islands they called the Philipines in honor of King Philip who was at that time the King of Spain. The date was March 16, 1521. Spain was the world power at the time when they conquered the Philippines.

There were so many abuses committed by the Spaniards as shown in his Goals "Nola Mi Fangere" (Touch Me Not) and El Filibusterismo (The Filibustering) written by our famous national hero Dr. Jose Rizal. The abuses made by the Spaniards may be compared



to slavery here in the States. That is why our national songs called *kundiman* are so sentimental and emotional coming from the voices of the oppressed people to us.

Regarding our culture, marriage to us, is for keeps and we don't believe in divorce. Our love and respect for the elderly is one of the outstanding traits of Filipinos which was developed and engrained to us in our formative years. Filipinos are also noted for their hospitality and generosity to strangers. Whenever a guest or a stranger visits us we always offer them something to drink or eat. We have beautiful beaches and exotic scenarios that is one of the main attractions to tourists.



AHAC held three candidate forums in August. Members got to meet with different candidates and ask them questions about issues that are important to them, like Medicaid.

Bus Ride

I went for a bus ride on this Tuesday, and what do you think I seen?

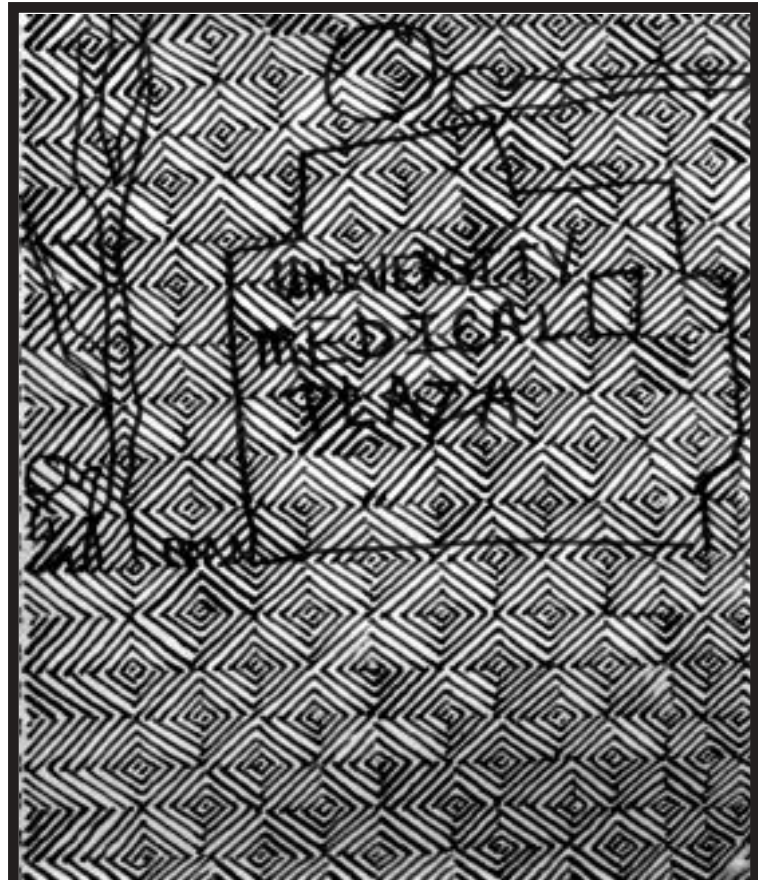
I seen stores, houses and people walking down the streets, I see other buses, cars and trucks, I even seen some motorcycles.

I seen women and men pushing baby strollers, joggers and folks riding their bikes!

I made it to my destination, and then I started home. Today was a normal day.

The most special thing I seen today, was when I walked into our place and saw you, "my love."

- Joe Coult



Standard Crowd Drawings in Witnessing the Deprivation of Cultured Modern Medicine for Hospital Links by Mary Torgerson