

Utah Housing Coalition

Volume 4
Issue 1
Winter 2004

Special points of

Interest:

- Mayor Anderson Endorses NHTF
- Member Spotlight
- How to be an Advocate

Inside this issue:

Mayor Anderson Endorses National Housing Trust Fund	1
Message From the Chair	2
Exec Contact Info/ Member Spotlight	3
Member Spotlight/ Conference Plans	4
How to be an Advocate	5

Mayor Anderson Endorses the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign

Joining leaders throughout the nation, Mayor Rocky Anderson has endorsed the effort to create the National Housing Trust Fund. The fund, which has been introduced in both houses of Congress, would help produce, rehabilitate, and preserve 1.5 million units of low income housing in the next decade. The fund would provide matching dollars to municipal programs, such as Salt Lake City's Housing Trust Fund, helping make housing affordable and accessible.

"Ensuring that all have access to housing they can afford is one of the most pressing issues for municipalities across the nation," said Mayor Rocky Anderson. "Salt Lake City is no exception. The creation of a dedicated funding source for low income housing on a national level would help us achieve our ambitious local housing goals."

Mayor Anderson's endorsement of the National Housing Trust Fund came at a news conference attended by advocates from the Utah Housing Coalition and the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The groups have joined forces to raise awareness and increase

pressure on Congress to view this issue as an important problem for our nation.

"Across the nation, there is an affordable housing crisis, especially for those who make less than 30% of area median income," said Irene Basloe-Saraf, Associate Director of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. "We're excited to see Mayor Anderson and Salt Lake City taking a leadership role in addressing the issue locally."

Claudia O'Grady, Chairperson of the Utah Housing Coalition, also sees the National Housing Trust Fund as crucial. "Local efforts, such as those carried out with funds from Salt Lake City's Housing Trust Fund, can only go so far," said O'Grady. "We need our national leaders to step up and join the fight."



Message from the chair

During the 2003 year, the Utah Housing Coalition completed the strategic planning process which resulted in a plan that we expect to guide us through the next several years of business. The summarized document can now be found on our website www.utahhousing.org. We refined our mission statement to reflect the work our organization has done and hopes to accomplish in the coming years:

The mission of the Utah Housing Coalition is to be the leader in housing issues and to promote an increase in accessible and affordable housing statewide. Utah Housing Coalition achieves its mission through education, advocacy, and cooperative partnerships.

One focus for this year is to revise our meeting schedule. Our members said they felt it would be more important to have fewer meetings and greater attendance at each of these meetings. Beginning with the 2004 calendar year, we will have meetings only in the even numbered months. The last page of this newsletter has our meeting schedule for this year.

The second objective we achieved earlier this year responded to our members' desire to have more representation on the Hill during the legislative session. Many people expressed the idea that we

can bring more resources to our state if we educate our legislators about our specific needs and desires.

Toward that end the Coalition contributed to the hiring of Steve Erickson, a lobbyist, to work on our behalf during the 2004 session. Not only do we expect to gain very specific legislative benefits to the affordable housing community, we also expect to increase the Coalition's name recognition as an expert source for housing policy analysis.

A third and very important focus for these coming months is the hiring of an Executive Director for the Coalition. This emphasis was made loud and clear through our strategic planning sessions. A paid staff position of Executive Director will be a critical forward step toward achieving our mission. Our organization has simply become too big and too important to be run by volunteer committees. We have the financial resources to hire a qualified Executive Director, and we hope to announce a hiring in the very near future.

Thank you for your continued participation with the Coalition. We have taken some significant steps toward increasing our presence and activity throughout the state. We hope this continues to be a meaningful and useful organization which will further our collective efforts in housing.

Claudia O'Grady

Utah Housing Matters Conference Committee

The Utah Housing Matters Conference Committee is ready to start planning for an exciting and informative conference again this year. The Conference will be held September 20 & 21, 2004 at the Homestead Resort in Midway, Utah. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the details of the conference. The committee will meet once a month (usually around lunchtime) through August. If you are interested in serving on this fun committee, please contact Jennifer Schreiter at 801-971-6572 or utahhc@xmission.com.

Executive Board

If you have anything you would like to share with our members, please contact one of us.

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Member Spotlight

Each newsletter we would like to spotlight two of our current members. These are selected at random, and this section is designed to

Possible Logo Inserted here



Green Street Partners, Inc. is a non-profit housing developer based in Salt Lake City. Its President is Peter Corroon. Green Street Partners is currently building a 6-story, 25 apartment unit building at 925 South 200 West in Salt Lake City. The building has approximately 2,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor and great views of the Salt Lake Valley from the upper floors.

The mission of Green Street Partners is to develop affordable rental housing for other non-profits that serve low-income individuals and families.

Most non-profits have expertise in serving the needs of their clients but are not housing developers. For non-profits that do not have expertise in housing development, Green Street Partners provides housing at a cost far below what these non-profits would pay to develop their own housing for low-income individuals and families. The board of trustees and volunteers of Green Street Partners consist of people with strong backgrounds in community service and the real estate industry. The cur-

Graphic of recent project—need to scan and import

Member Spotlight



MISSION STATEMENT

Salt Lake Neighborhood Housing Services builds strengths of neighborhoods, creating opportunities through housing, resident leadership, youth and economic development. We work partnership with our residents, government, and businesses build and sustain neighborhoods of choice.

Created in 1977, Salt Lake NHS, a partnership of business, residents and government, has comprehensive neighborhood revitalization as its primary mission. NHS's current programs focus on Affordable Housing Development, Home Preservation, Nontraditional 1st and 2nd Mortgage Lending, Homebuyer and Financial Fitness Education, Commercial Development and Revitalization, Resident Leadership, and Youth Employment.

OVERVIEW

- For 25+ years, building stronger communities through solid neighborhood housing.
- A private, non-profit organization which typically partners with government, agencies and non-profits.
- National NeighborWorks network member; federal Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation affiliate.
- **SERVICE AREA:** Education programs available to all Salt Lake Valley residents.
 - *Loans and homes* available: **North-South: Approximately 1000 North – 1700 South**
East-West: Approximately 200 West – Redwood Rd (1700 W)
- **TARGET NEIGHBORHOODS:** W Capitol Hill, Poplar Grove, Euclid, Guadalupe, Fairpark, Rose Park.
- **CUSTOMERS:** Programs, services, and homes available to a mixed-income population. The majority of NHS customers are low to moderate income.

NAHRO Conference Info

Have info from Heidi Miller—need to import



Legislative Corner

The How and Why of Advocacy Basics of Nonprofit Lobbying (YES! Non-profit organizations CAN lobby!!!!!!)

*Lobbying, or participation in public policy dialogue, is NOT the same as electoral, political, or campaign activity.

*Not all public policy activity is lobbying.

*Public policy involvement, including lobbying, should be seen as critically important for non-profit organizations and the people we serve.

Direct Lobbying:

Communication directed to:

- A legislator;
- An employee of a legislative body;
- Any government employee involved in the formulation of legislation;
- The organization's own board or members

Two Part Test

- Refers to specific legislation, AND
- Expresses a view on that legislation

Grassroots Lobbying:

Communication directed to:

- The general public
(or anyone not included in direct lobbying)

Three Part Test

- Refers to specific legislation, AND
- Expresses a view on that legislation, AND
- Issues a "grassroots call to action"
(i.e. encourages the recipient to take lobbying action)

Government Policies Affect YOU

You can influence policy

YOU can improve services

YOU can help increase funding for needed programs

YOU can educate policymakers

If policymakers don't hear from **YOU**, they assume everything is OK

Golden Rules of Advocacy

1. Be fair and respectful toward public officials.
2. Be understanding. Put yourself in the public official's place.
3. Be reasonable. Recognize that there are legitimate differences of opinion.
4. Be realistic and persistent. Remember that controversial legislation and regulation usually result in a compromise not wholly satisfactory to any one contending party.
5. Be practical. Recognize that each lawmaker has commitments and that a certain amount of vote trading goes on in all legislatures.
6. Be a good opponent. Fight issues, not personalities.
7. Be informed. Do your homework. The mere fact that you want an official to adopt your position won't be enough.
8. Be loyal and trustworthy. Never leave officials out on a limb by changing your position after they have publicly taken the position that you urged upon them.
9. Be generous. Remember that in success everyone can claim credit. Thank policy makers for their positive acts at least as often as you inquire why they went wrong.

Communicating Your Views

*It only takes 10 minutes!

*Should you call, testify in person, email, visit, or write?

It depends on your schedule and what kind of resources you have. If possible, avoid depending on email.

No matter what form you use, follow these guidelines:

- Always identify yourself by name and address.
- The most important thing you can say about yourself is:

I AM A VOTER IN YOUR DISTRICT



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*Promoting affordable housing to ensure
healthy and stable communities.*

www.utahhousing.org

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C

alendar
of UHC
Events

As a result of our strategic planning process, we have revised our meeting schedule to every other month.

The remainder of our 2004 schedule is as follows:

April 7, 2004	UHC Monthly Meeting	DCED/Weatherization Project
	Washington Mutual 376 East 400 South	11:00 a.m.
June 2, 2004	Annual Social/Officer Switch	
	Washington Mutual 376 East 400 South	11:00 a.m.
August 4, 2004	UHC Monthly Meeting	Topic TBD
	Washington Mutual 376 East 400 South	11:00 a.m.
September 19-21, 2004	Annual Conference	All day
	Homestead Resort, Midway, UT	
October 6, 2004	UHC Monthly Meeting	Topic TBD
	Washington Mutual 376 East 400 South	11:00 a.m.
December 1, 2004	UHC Monthly Meeting	Winter Social
	Washington Mutual 376 East 400 South	11:00 a.m.