

Utah Valley Ministerial Association

August 13, 2010

Dear Editor:

Brothers and sisters of Utah County – we are asking for your help!

The Food and Care Coalition, the local organization that serves food, and provides medical care, hygiene care, and many other services, needs our help.

You need to know - 93 percent of those served at the Coalition are RESIDENTS of Utah County, 38 percent are WOMEN, and 1/3 are EMPLOYED. Many people are forced to choose between food OR housing. Although the Coalition receives 3,200 new shelter requests annually, our cities and county do not provide a community shelter.

The Coalition is trying to provide part of that shelter and that's where you come in – we need to raise \$700,000 by October 31, when the snow starts to fly in Utah.

The reason for the October 31, deadline is that we have confirmed the death of 9 individuals in Utah Valley during the winter of 2008, due to lack of shelter. We don't want that to be repeated or to have the number increase because of a more difficult economy.

As clergy, representing 40 faiths in Utah Valley, we ask individuals in our congregations and other friends to write a check TODAY. Space is available in the new Coalition facility at 299 East 900 South, Provo, but it hasn't been finished because of pledges that failed to materialize. Checks can be sent to that address, c/o Brent Crane, the director.

We also ask that routine prayers be offered to gain the funding needed for our brothers and sisters in need. We have a chance to make a difference.

Thank you for your consideration. God Bless Utah County.

Sincerely,

Rev. Daniel Haas, Provo Community United Church of Christ, chair, Utah Valley Ministerial Association

Chaplain Tami Harris, Heritage School, past-chair, Utah Valley Ministerial Association

Kena Mathews, Habitat for Humanity, chair-elect, Utah Valley Ministerial Association

Chaplain Linda P. Walton, Interfaith Student Association/UVU, board member, Utah Valley Ministerial Association (linda@thewaltongroupinc.com or (801) 362-0330.

