

Summary of Need



The Food & Care Coalition LLC, is wholly owned by Friends of the Coalition, a non-profit 501(c)(3) service organization. The agency has been an integral part of Utah County's defense and response to poverty needs since the mid 1980's.

Central to our governing philosophy is the strategy to incorporate the collective talents and skills of our community in carrying out our mission. Involving community members will lead to

"Nearly everything about The Coalition impresses me. I like the sense of mission, of dedication to that mission and the willingness to treat their patrons as significant human beings. I especially like the strong sense of community they are working from and building toward. I am impressed that this is Utah County's own community program, organized and largely funded by the local community"

- Marden Clark

stronger programming, reduce the fiscal impact on the community and, in the end, achieve better results. Issues of poverty are simply too delicate to relegate to governmental entities alone.

We believe that Utah County has the capacity to become a model to others in

confronting and meeting the challenges of poverty. Our religious, educational, business, technological and civic-minded people provide an extremely strong platform to accomplish this objective. Strong and practical services exist but substantially more are needed.

Homeless persons currently accessing services in the community are faced with a mixed bag. On the one hand they have access to one of the best food networks available anywhere in the country. On the other, however, they have no entry point to housing. Utah County has no shelter system in place other than a voucher stay program at local motels, and is problematic at best. High room costs, lack of monitored supervision and short length of stays all contribute to a system that is broken and ineffective.

Evidence, research and common sense all point to the fact that service gaps in our community exist for the homeless population. In 2002, The Coalition encouraged Utah County to conduct a research study which was completed by Brereton & Woods. The results of the study specifically outlined transitional housing, mental health services, and support services such as work training and education as areas needing improvement.

Planned improvements and additions to programs and facilities will provide Utah County with a viable answer to many of the challenges facing our homeless friends. The project will feature the first transitional housing program dedi-

"It's time that we ensure the long term success of one of the county's best charitable organizations"

- Ed J. Pinegar

cated to the homeless in Utah County and offer education and work outlets not currently available. The project will also improve the overall effectiveness of existing programs at The Coalition and elsewhere in the community.

Since the completion of the homeless study, over 20 site visits have been made to other facilities throughout the country by FACC administrators to investigate, learn, and interview homeless persons, facility managers and city officials. The practical results of this research are embodied within our plan to improve existing services. These insights have influenced facility design, program implementation, and created long range plans to implement and improve systematically our approach in addressing the needs of homeless persons in our community in the future.

In 2004, The Coalition received a seed grant from a local family, that with careful research and planning, will significantly enhance our ability to meet this challenge. However, broader community support is needed to finalize the project (see *Project Budget & Donor Levels* for more information). We are optimistic that residents of Utah County will stand up and support this worthy effort.