

*Brief History of the Weber Coalition for a Healthy Community*  
(WCHC)

Nearly 34% of persons in Ogden City area are living below federal poverty guidelines. Even more alarming, nearly 44% of families with children under the age of 18 are living below poverty (Ogden City Community Development). One area elementary school has a poverty rate of 97% and a free school lunch rate of 88%. In Ogden City, 61% of school children are living below federal poverty guidelines. Most of these families have no health care coverage and do not qualify for any government program.

In 1999, a group of concerned citizens met to form a *Coalition* which would be composed of multi-disciplinary residents/agencies of Weber County who believe in their community and who were willing to collaborate to improve the health of their community. The Weber Coalition for a Health Community (WCHC) seeks to improve the access of the uninsured and underinsured of Weber County to appropriate health care; including primary and secondary medical care, oral care and behavioral health care.

Over the past seven years the WCHC was successful in collaborating to obtain a 1.3 million dollar grant used to develop the Health Access Team (*HAT*). *HAT* is an extension of Midtown Community Healthcare Clinic and assists underserved/underinsured families to access appropriate health care. This team has solicited over \_\_\_\_\_ doctors and dentists who are willing to provide organized charity care for these residents; this program has been shown to decrease the numbers of unwarranted Emergency Room visits. The WCHC was also instrumental in bringing the *211 Information and Referral Line* to Weber County.

The Coalition continues to look for areas of need and is currently working to make a positive impact in the following areas:

- Access to mental healthcare/drug abuse issues
- Childhood Obesity
- Teen Pregnancy