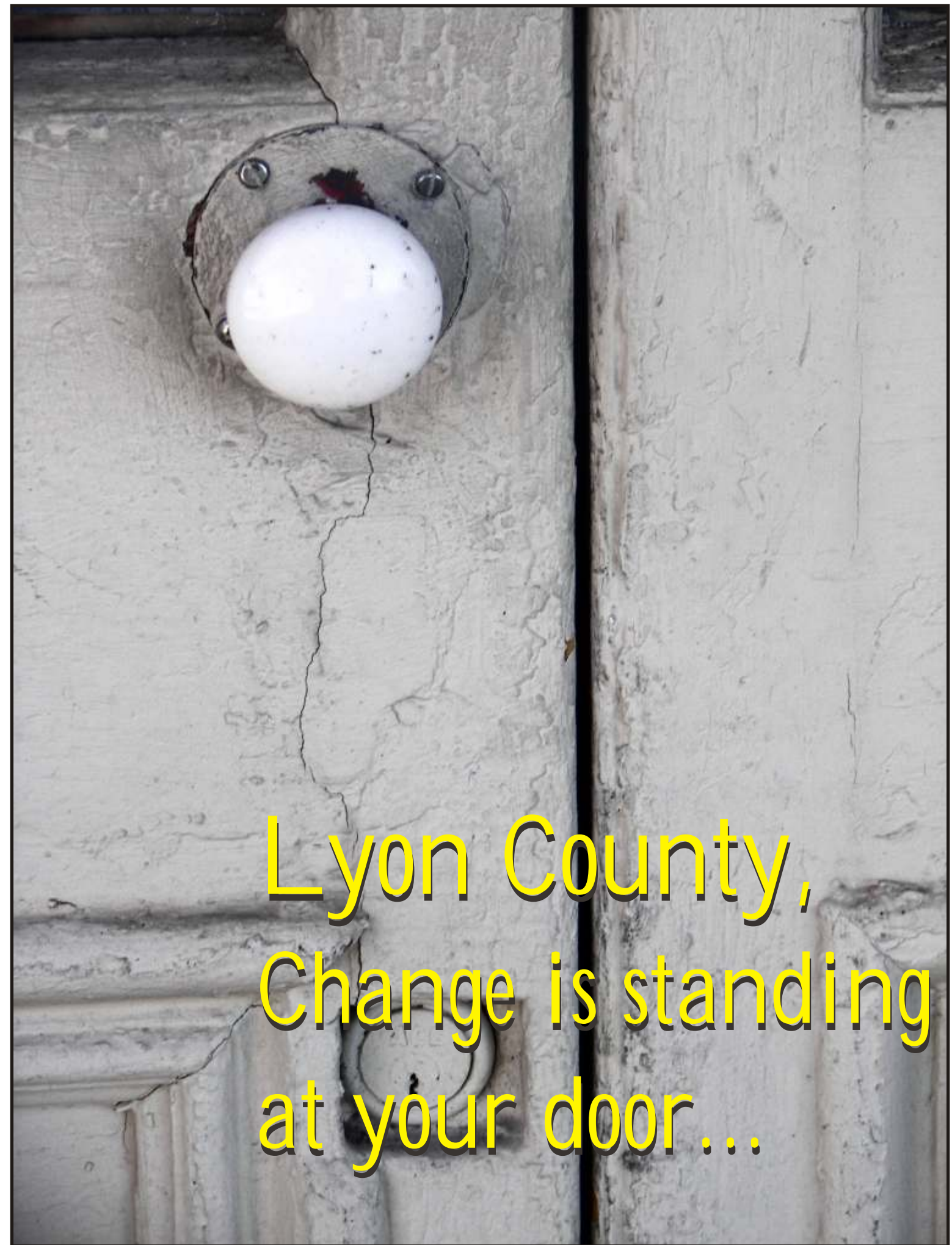


To make a difference...



Your voice can help define
how our communities
will promote success for all.

...answer the door and attend the
next meeting in your community.



Lyon County,
Change is standing
at your door...

Healthy Communities Coalition
P.O. Box 517
170 Pike Street
Dayton, NV 89403
775.246.7550



Lyon County Human Services
P.O. Box 1141
1075 Pyramid
Silver Springs, NV 89429
775.577.5009

FACTS

There is a **Gap between** the **cost of living** and **Wages** or Social Security Benefits.

The **cost of housing** in Lyon County has **more than doubled** from 2000 to 2005.

A **minimum wage** worker in Lyon County would **have to work 66 hours every week** to afford a one-bedroom apartment.

For a 3 person family, **60% of Nevada jobs pay less than a living wage.** Our largest workforce is the service industry, of which 87% do not pay a living wage.

A single parent with two children **needs to earn almost \$16.00** an hour in order to meet their basic needs; a two parent family with two children must earn approximately \$18.00 an hour **to meet their basic needs.**

Only 11.3% of the population over age 25 **has a Bachelor's degree** or higher, compared to the state rate of 18.2%.

1 out of every 4 high school students on **'Free and Reduced' lunch**, and **1 out of every 6** high school students in the general school population **do not meet standards in literacy.**

To keep things the same...

I'm 86 and getting by as best I can without leaving my home, giving up my dogs, and moving to Senior Housing. Embarrassingly, my gas was shut off for two months last winter because I could not afford to pay my \$800 accumulated gas bill. I didn't want to get behind but I only receive \$860 a month from Social Security. My rent is \$500. This leaves me with only \$360 for food, utilities, pet food, and expensive medication. I choose to pay for my medication. What would you not pay?



Meet my three kids; ages one, four, and eight. I would do anything for them. However, the one thing I can't do is afford the \$2,387 it takes to live every month. To meet our basic needs I would have to make \$14 an hour and currently I make \$10. Two months ago, when things were looking up with my new job and training as a future 911 operator, my car broke down causing me to miss work and my last month of training. When I thought things couldn't get worse, my son ended up in the ER with an infection and I had to pay out of pocket expenses since my medical benefits were not available for 30 days. Currently, I make \$1,785 a month. but, with my existing expenses for rent, car, gas, food, utilities, and medical costs, I am still not making enough. What would you cut out?

I have owned a small family business for several decades. I am at the juncture of expanding into a large business, employing dozens more, or remaining a small business owner. I need higher-skilled employees in order to bring in the technology and knowledge necessary for the expansion. I've read the high school dropout rate is high in Lyon County and education appears to be a low priority. I'm concerned about the risk in developing better-paying jobs without the educated workforce to fill the positions. In fact, during the past three years, I've had a difficult time just retaining employees. We can't drug test because applicants don't pass. Some face the barriers of insufficient transportation and/or lack of child care. But many just seem to be happy with a paycheck or two. How do I tap into a trained and motivated workforce and convince my lender there are economic development opportunities in Lyon County or do I just relocate my business to another community that has a highly trained workforce?

On my ninth birthday, my mother told me to go into my room and I would find something that would make me skinny and get people to like me. On the bed was a line of Methamphetamine. By twelve, I knew how to weigh and package meth for sales. I didn't even know what I was doing was illegal. In my early teen years, I moved out of the house, dropped out of school, and married a 32 year old drug dealer. I eventually went to jail and soon found out I was newly pregnant. Thank God I was in jail and not using. I had my baby one week after being released. I knew it was time to change my life and I did. This change was NEVER easy, and I have to work at it every day. Recovery from Methamphetamine is difficult but possible. I often wonder, how could my life been different--who could have intervened when I was young?



When each of our community members thrive,
Lyon County will prosper.



I can't tell you their names because I am a counselor, but I want you to know that some of our Lyon County children suffer and live a life I wouldn't wish on anybody. Most children and teens who are weathering their parents' addiction to drugs live a secret life filled with uncertainty and anger. They ache for their parent to be well enough to do things like wake them up for school, sign homework folders, stock the refrigerator, and react to life in a predictable manner. You have heard the horror stories of what Methamphetamine can do to a person, now imagine a child watching his or her single parent live that nightmare--his or her only caregiver acting violent, unpredictable, manic, and sleeping for days. What is our response to these children?

FACTS

Addiction like cancer **knows no boundaries** and affects people of all ages, races, and social classes.

16% of Lyon County High School **Youth report using Methamphetamine** in 2005. This is one of the highest rates in Nevada and across the country.

Many **families** in Lyon County **suffer from both addiction** to drugs and or alcohol and **poverty.** Based on information from the Lyon County Sheriff's Office, 90 to 95% of crimes that are processed in their office are either directly or indirectly related to substance abuse.

Addiction can send the entire family into a state of **poverty and chaos.**

For **children with parents addicted** to drugs, there are few resources available to help these children.

There is only one outpatient substance abuse counseling program in Lyon County, and **no in-patient treatment facilities** available.

Addiction to alcohol and or drugs **is a disease.**

...don't answer it.