

### *Annual Letter Appeal*

DEAR FRIEND OF COPE,

VIOLENCE AT HOME IS A FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE.

COPE IS COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM IN OTERO AND LINCOLN COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO BY:

- PROVIDING COUNSELING, SHELTER, ADVOCACY AND LEGAL SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR CHILDREN,
- REDUCING THE RISK OF FURTHER VIOLENCE THROUGH OUR 52 WEEK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER PROGRAM,
- PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS ON DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND BULLYING.

THE VIOLENCE HAS NOT ENDED AND WE MUST CONTINUE OUR WORK. PEOPLE ARE COUNTING ON US TO HELP THEM 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR.

THIS LETTER IS PROBABLY ONE OF MANY YOU WILL RECEIVE REQUESTING SUPPORT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. WHY RESPOND TO THIS ONE?

.....BECAUSE WE ARE A LOCAL ORGANIZATION, HERE IN YOUR COMMUNITY PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHEN THEY NEED IT.

.....BECAUSE WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE.

.....BECAUSE YOUR SUPPORT, NO MATTER HOW BIG OR HOW SMALL WILL SHOW THAT YOU ARE A PARTNER WITH US IN TAKING A STAND TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AT HOME IN OUR COMMUNITY, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

THANK YOU

SINCERELY,

COPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PASTOR JAMES FORNEY

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REV. ROBERT RENO

SARAH ELDRIDGE

GLORIA VAUGHN

#### SHELTER NEEDS

- ◆ Shampoo / Conditioner
- ◆ Makeup
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Children's Socks
- ◆ Alarm Clocks
- ◆ Boys Deodorant
- ◆ Pillows
- ◆ Hangers



#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Annual Letter Appeal</i>	1
<i>Why Does She Stay?</i>	2
<i>Help This Holiday Season</i>	2
<i>Dating Violence Quiz</i>	3
<i>Contribution Card</i>	3
<i>VOCA</i>	4

## WHY DOES SHE STAY ?

Those of us who work to address domestic violence are constantly frustrated by this question. Many victims of domestic violence tell us they do not want to leave their homes or uproot their children from their lives.....they simply want the violence to stop.

For us, the most important question focuses on the behavior of the abuser.....not the victim. Why does he keep hurting her and the children? What caused him to start doing this and what can we do to make sure he stops this behavior?

We believe that violence often has its roots in what children see at a young age. Most people who witness violence as children do not grow up to abuse or be abused. However, some children who experience violence at home come to believe that this is how everyone lives. As they grow to adulthood, they perpetuate these behaviors in their own homes not realizing there are other ways to live.

We also observe that perpetrators of abuse are more likely to have rigid beliefs about gender roles, believing that men need to be dominant in all aspects of the relationship and that women are to be subservient to their husbands. Power and control becomes all important to abusers in this type of relationship.

How can violent behavior at home be stopped? Today laws have been enacted to address violence at home. While incarceration is still required for the most violent of acts, many offenders in Otero and Lincoln Counties are placed on probation and court ordered to participate in COPE's 52-week domestic violence offender treatment and intervention program (DVOTI). Group facilitators at COPE lead five groups weekly at COPE's Alamogordo office and two groups each week in COPE's Ruidoso office.

Following an initial assessment, most individuals are referred to the 52-week

group program. The program has a strong educational component, identifying the aspects of abusive behavior and teaching alternatives to such behaviors, including honesty, accountability and respect in all areas of a relationship. The group setting has proven to be most effective in addressing long held beliefs about power and subsequent controlling behaviors in intimate relationships.

Last year more than 250 people participated in COPE's domestic violence offender program. While not every participant changes these long held beliefs and behaviors, we have had the opportunity to witness many who learn and grow. The year long program gives participants the chance to change behavior over time while maintaining accountability and receiving support in the group setting. For these individuals and their families, there is hope that the violence will end and life will be better.

## HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

For most of us, the holiday season arrives with excitement, joy, love, and family get-togethers. It is a time when people reflect on their familial relationships and strive to create some sense of togetherness. If you were to go to a mall, you would hear Christmas music, see the gorgeous decorations, and watch the special events that are put on in the mall center stage area. You would see children running here and there as they look in awe at all the cool toys and wait in line for a chance to sit on Santa's lap.

Unfortunately, there are many children that never experience the holidays in a pleasant way. For children that have experienced domestic violence at home all the beauty, love, and laughter they observe in the mall is foreign to them. It is not a part of their daily life nor is it a part of their holidays. They can easily become confused as they observe and possibly wonder why their mommy or daddy doesn't behave the way other moms and dads behave during this time.

For the child that is experiencing abuse, the holidays can be quite stressful. As the holidays approach, the stress level within the home is heightened and the abuse also rises. The child who witnesses abuse may watch without joy the happenings at the mall as they sit or stand quietly with their abusive parent. They don't laugh. They don't wait in anticipation. They simply live as they have always had to live...in fear. They have grown to become aware of what each facial expression means. They know that certain look on their parent's face that warns them of impending abuse when they get back home. So, the child that is being abused



JEAN ROSE MANSKE, PICTURED HERE ON THE LEFT SIDE DONATED HANDMADE QUILTS, STUFFED ANIMALS, PILLOWS AND HANDMADE PILLOWCASES AND CHRISTMAS ITEMS TO COPE. THANK YOU JEAN !



BORDER PATROL EMPLOYEES DONATED 20 THANKSGIVING MEALS & TWO LARGE BOXES OF COATS TO COPE CLIENTS. PICTURED HERE ARE BORDER PATROL EMPLOYEES CLAUDE CLAFLIN, ROBERT SANDOVAL AND DAVID GRAHAM WITH COPE DIRECTOR, KAY GOMOLAK.

(Continued from page 2)

must walk on egg shells and strive to behave just as they have been taught. It is not a time of joy. It is a time of fear for the child.

After reading this, you may be wondering what you can do to help child witnesses of domestic violence during this holiday season. At COPE we have families that have directly requested help with regard to gifts and holiday meals. Perhaps you might be able to donate a meal for one family for Christmas. You might want to donate some gift cards from a restaurant. Possibly you could donate some movie passes so the children can visit the movie theater or you might want to donate coats, toys, blankets or pillows. Whatever you decide to donate can mean a lot to a child and their family. Please consider helping at least one child or one family this holiday season. Your gift may help to bring joy to children who do not normally experience happiness during the holidays. For more information, please call our offices in Alamogordo at 575-434-3622 or in Ruidoso at 575-258-4946.

## DATING VIOLENCE QUIZ

### TEST YOUR DATING VIOLENCE KNOWLEDGE!

1. Dating violence is rare among high schools students, college students and other educated people. True or False?
2. Drug and/or alcohol abuse is often a factor in dating violence incidents. True or False?
3. If violence occurs once in a dating relationship, it is likely to happen again. True or False?
4. Police hardly ever make arrests in dating violence situations. True or False?
5. The best way to get a friend to leave an abusive relationship is to "cut ties" with them. True or False?
6. When someone leaves an abusive relationship, the abuse usually ends. True or False?

(Answers on page 4)

### CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO COPE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE...RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

- I'm pleased to make this contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to COPE
  - to provide services in Otero County.
  - to provide services in Lincoln County
  - use where needed to help COPE provide domestic violence services.
- My donation is enclosed.
- Bill me \_\_\_ monthly or \_\_\_ quarterly.
- I will pay by credit card on line at [www.copedv.org](http://www.copedv.org).



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: COPE, Inc., 909 South Florida Avenue, Alamogordo, NM 88310  
Your contribution to COPE is tax deductible.



909 South Florida Avenue, Alamogordo, NM 88310  
Hot Lines: 575.437.2673 or 1.866.350.2673  
Office: 575.434.3622



[WWW.COPEDV.ORG](http://WWW.COPEDV.ORG)

1204 Mechem Drive, Suite 12, Ruidoso, NM 88345  
Hot Line: 1.866.350.2673  
Office: 575.258.4946



*COMMENTS FROM A PARTICIPANT IN THE OFFENDER PROGRAM:*

“THE WAY I LOOK AT THINGS NOW AND REACT TO THINGS IS A LOT BETTER. MY RELATIONSHIP IS THE STRONGEST IT’S EVER BEEN. I FEEL LIKE I GOT A LOT OUT OF THIS CLASS AND IT MADE ME A BETTER PERSON.”

**Answers to Dating Violence Quiz**

1. FALSE! Dating and domestic violence is common among all people.
2. TRUE! Although drug and alcohol abuse is a factor in dating violence, it is not the cause of relationship violence. The root cause of dating or domestic violence is based in the use of power and control.
3. TRUE! It is rare for someone to abuse their partner once and never do it again.
4. FALSE! Police take dating violence seriously. In the past victims had to agree to press charges. Now the decision to arrest is made by police based on evidence.
5. FALSE! It is very important to maintain friendship and support for a friend who is in an abusive relationship. It becomes increasingly difficult for a person to leave an abusive relationship without the support of friends and family.
6. FALSE! The time when a person leaves an abusive relationship is potentially very dangerous. It is important for a person to plan carefully when leaving an abusive relationship whenever possible. A victim advocate at COPE can help the person to develop a safety plan.

**OUR VISION:** A COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AND FULLY ENGAGED AND COMMITTED TO ITS ERADICATION.

**OUR MISSION:** TO HELP PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE IN OTERO AND LINCOLN COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO.

**WE DO THIS BY:**

- PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE ARRAY OF DIRECT SERVICES, INCLUDING SHELTER, COUNSELING, LEGAL SERVICES AND ADVOCACY.
- ENGAGING OTHERS IN EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY.
- PROMOTING SAFE AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH AWARENESS AND PREVENTION.

**VOCA, A GREAT RESOURCE TO HELP VICTIMS OF CRIME**

The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) established a Crime Victims Fund which is a major source of funding for victims services nationwide. These funds are not derived from tax dollars. Rather, they are collected from offenders who have been convicted of federal crimes. The funds come from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees and special assessments collected by the U.S. Attorney’s Offices, U.S. Courts and the Bureau of Prisons.

Each state receives funding from VOCA to be used for direct crime victim compensation and to support local

victim services. In our state, VOCA funds are administered by the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC).

Ten percent of COPE’s annual budget comes from VOCA funding. These grant funds are used by COPE to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence at all three COPE locations: Ruidoso office, Alamogordo office and Alamogordo shelter. VOCA funded COPE staff provide crisis intervention, safety planning, education about domestic violence, and assistance with court matters. They help with the immediate, individualized

needs of clients such as obtaining shelter, housing, transportation, emergency food, clothing, and financial resources.

Victims of crime may be eligible to receive direct reimbursement for crime related costs from VOCA funding such as medical costs, mental health counseling, lost wages or loss of support, funeral and burial costs. These funds are administered by CVRC. COPE staff are trained to assist victims of domestic violence in applying for these direct reimbursement funds. For more information contact a victim advocate at any COPE location.

*FROM ONE OF OUR DEPARTING SHELTER RESIDENTS:*

“YOU HAVE HELPED ME TREMENDOUSLY. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY YOU SHOWED TO MY CHILD AND ME!!! WE LOVE YOU GUYS!!”