

Volume 4, Issue 1  
June 2012

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Join Us Now On



### Shelter Needs

- Towels
- Pillows
- Children's and adult socks
- Paper products: plates, cups, forks, spoons, napkins, toilet paper
- Foil paper
- Children's juice box (Capri Suns)
- Children's snacks: cookies, graham crackers, popsicles
- Hair dryers
- Hair brush and combs
- Hair spray
- Makeup
- Broom
- Mops
- HE laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies

### Think you know golf?

The COPE Golf Skills Challenge returns for its second year on Saturday, July 28, at Desert Lakes Golf Course. Cost: \$30.00 per player, with payouts for individual events and overall winners. Call 437-0290 for more information or to sign up.



### Women's support group meets every Thursday

The Domestic Violence Women's Support Group meets every Thursday from 4:00pm-5:00pm at COPE's Alamogordo office. Group members have an opportunity to share and to listen to stories and experiences of their peers in addition to gaining psycho-educational information on domestic violence and safety planning. Group members are not required to share their stories, however are welcomed to participate in the group setting.

A group exercise is given and group members are encouraged to participate. The topics vary weekly depending upon the theme. Group topics may include information on the Power and Control Wheel, equality in relationships, effects of domestic violence on children, ways of developing a strategy to build healthy relationships through learning the components and belief system of a healthy relationship, and infor-

mation on increasing personal power and control over their own life by demonstrating an understanding of the use of violence in intimate relationships. Group members develop a strategy on building their self esteem. They also learn to recognize the potential for violence in relationships by understanding the patterns of violence.

Any individual who has experienced domestic violence and is in need of a support system in their lives and is interested in attending the Women's Support Group may schedule to meet with a Domestic Violence Specialist or Counselor to be admitted to the group. A potential group member will complete an intake and a brief screening before entering the group setting. This will ensure that the group member is ready for the group process and that she will know what to expect while she is in the Women's Support Group.

### Join the COPE email list!

We're starting up an emailing list to keep in touch with our supporters. Want to be a part of it? Send your name and email address to:

[info@copedv.org](mailto:info@copedv.org)

And remember you can follow us on Facebook and on our web site:

[facebook.com/copedv](http://facebook.com/copedv)  
[copedv.org](http://copedv.org)



Perry Champion and Don Fowler auction off Cynthia Smith's oil painting "Sunflowers" at the COPE Casino Gala. (story on p. 2)

## Lincoln County volunteers put on Casino Gala

The Center of Protective Environment, Inc. (COPE) hosted its 1st Annual Casino Gala on the evening of Friday, April 13th at the Swiss Bar and Grill of the Swiss Chalet Inn. Those in attendance played Blackjack and roulette, bid on silent and live auction items, and enjoyed good food, good music and good company. COPE's Lincoln County Advisory Council spearheaded this event to support the nonresidential services provided by COPE for survivors of domestic violence and their children at its office at 1204 Mechem, Suite 12 in Ruidoso. "This is the first time we have done anything like this event," said Kay Gomolak, COPE's Executive Director, "and we netted \$9,000."

Twenty-five live auction items included outstanding artwork from local artists, gift certificates for lodging, golf lessons, rounds of golf, "a day at the races," Spencer Theater tickets, and a beautiful basket of wine and food items that was donated by the Spencer Theater ushers. In all, \$3,000 was raised from the live auction which was conducted by Perry Champion with able assistance from COPE's Advisory Council members.

The silent auction featured more than 100 items, with

artwork, jewelry, gift certificates and unique items donated by local businesses and individual artisans. The silent auction was held on the top floor of the Swiss Bar and Grill, and those who went up to bid on the silent auction items also enjoyed a magnificent view of the mountains from the room at the top of the building. On the main floor, more than 150 people enjoyed the music of Susan Kolb, sampled hors d'oeuvres, and played Blackjack and roulette throughout the evening.

"We want to thank everyone who donated items and volunteered their time to help with this event," said Mike Mauldin, chairman of COPE's Advisory Council in Lincoln County. "Our efforts will help to keep a vital service in our community alive for those who need it." Since 2002 COPE has provided domestic violence services in Lincoln County to survivors of domestic violence and their children, reaching more than 200 people each year. In addition to counseling, advocacy and legal services for domestic violence survivors and their children, COPE operates the only state certified 52-week program for domestic violence offenders in Lincoln County.



Clockwise from top left: gambling crowd; COPE Executive Director Kay Gomolak (with fistful of 20s from selling raffle tickets) and musician Susan Kolb; silent-auction crowd; Lincoln County Advisory Council chair Michael Mauldin.

**Breakaway: The COPE Benefit Concert** was held at the Flickinger Center on March 24. Some of the performers (clockwise from top right): Khaliya Sago; Anthony Kumpf with the Academy of Ballet; Mike Julian. (photos by Rachel Telles, copyright © 2012 Rachel Telles Photography)



## COPE goes greener

COPE thanks the PNM Foundation for grants that help to increase our energy efficiency and save money. Last year COPE received a Reduce Your Use grant from the PNM Foundation for \$1,800 to update the overhead lighting at the Alamogordo office with new lamp ballasts and reduced wattage lights. This year we received a \$2,600 grant to improve our exterior lighting at the shelter with LED fixtures, to replace 2 more outdated ballasts and purchase energy efficient lights, and to install timer switches on bathroom fans. Our reduced energy use is good for the environment and it allows us to focus our limited financial resources directly on the needs of the clients we serve.

***COPE, your hope for a safe, violence-free life. COPE can help.***

*There are little eyes upon you  
And they're watching night and day.  
There are little ears that quickly  
Take in every word you say.  
There are little hands all eager  
To do anything you do,  
And a little child who's dreaming  
Of the day they'll be like you.  
—“Little Eyes Upon You” (excerpt), Anonymous*



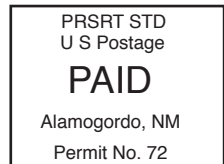
**New playground equipment** was installed at the COPE shelter this winter.

# COPE News CENTER OF PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT

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**Return Service Requested**

## Summer in the Shelter

Summer has come to the shelter and once again staff is busy coordinating services and planning activities to help the clients and their families spend time together participating in shelter and community events.

Our long anticipated playground has become a reality thanks to the hard work of many individuals, and our young residents are enjoying it on a daily basis! (See photos on p. 3.)

Since COPE believes that children heal best from the effects of domestic violence when involved in activities that provide them a safe and reassuring time with family, the staff seeks to link our clients with activities that are both enjoyable, safe, and easily accessible for them. Summer plans include participating in the library summer reading program, trips to the zoo, attending free movie

**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,
- Engaging others in effectively addressing these issues in our community,
- Promoting safe and healthy relationships through awareness and prevention.

**Services include:** housing advocacy and shelter to reduce homelessness, crisis intervention, victim advocacy and counseling services.

days, lunches in the park, and most popular—the family swim time at the Rec Center. Pool passes were purchased through a previously held raffle where a donated quilt was won by one lucky ticket holder.

Finally, to start summer off in style, the shelter will host a “Hot Diggity Dog It’s Summer!” cookout and family game night. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be cooked out on a grill donated through former board president, Sigrund Shoemaker.

Mindful that children need a safe haven as they begin to discover their world, COPE seeks to strengthen the family unit by modeling appropriate, fun ways to learn and practice alternatives to domestic violence.