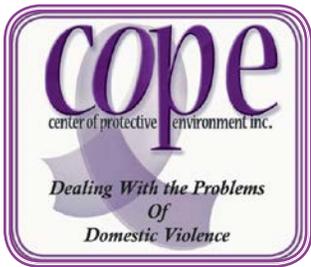


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## In this issue:

- Legal services available . . .1
- COPE at Schlotzsky's . . .1
- Stronger concert . . . . .2
- Casino Night . . . . .2
- Silent Witnesses . . . . .3
- School supplies needed . .3
- Office expansion . . . . .4



## COPE email

We've started an emailing list to keep in touch with our supporters. Send your name and email address to:

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

You can follow us on Facebook and on our web site:

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

## Shelter Needs

- Pillows
- Blankets
- Shampoo
- Hair conditioner
- Make-up
- Hair spray
- Kids' clothes and new underwear
- Alarm clocks
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper products

## Legal services now offered at COPE

COPE is pleased to announce the addition of a legal services component to its cadre of services for survivors of domestic violence. There are very few free or low cost legal services available within Otero and Lincoln Counties, the area which makes up the 12th Judicial District in New Mexico.

For several years COPE has received a Violence Against Women Act grant to provide legal representation for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking who are seeking orders of protection. Once the order was obtained, survivors could feel safer knowing there were legal parameters and safeguards limiting the contact their abuser could have with them.

These measures, however, are temporary and they do not address long term prob-

lems regarding such legal matters as child custody, child support and property division. Abusers often use children and money to continue to dominate the lives of their victims.

COPE now has one full-time and one part-time attorney on staff to assist domestic violence survivors. These attorneys will conduct consultations and provide advice to survivors on legal options. They may assist survivors in filing pro se or with full representation, as determined on a case by case basis. These services are primarily available to individuals with very low incomes. For more information about this program, individuals may contact our offices in Alamogordo or Ruidoso.

## COPE Night held at Ruidoso Schlotzsky's

Schlotzsky's in Ruidoso held COPE Night on April 2. COPE volunteers did part of the work and Schlotzsky's donated part of the receipts to COPE. The store is located in Pine Tree Square at 2812 Sudderth Drive. Thank you, Schlotzsky's!



Left: planning the evening with COPE Executive Director Kay Gomolak, Lincoln County Advisory Council member Susan Finch, and Schlotzsky's General Manager Curtis Williamson. Right: The COPE crew poised for action.

## “Stronger” concert - twice as good!

COPE has presented an annual concert as one of its fundraisers for many years, but 2013 was the first year the concert was performed in two locations. On March 16 “Stronger” was performed to a sellout crowd at Mountain Annie’s Center for the Arts in mid-town Ruidoso, and on March 30 it was performed at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo. The set list was almost the same for both concerts, but each had a different cast of local performers.

The producer for both shows was Steve Duffy of Lincoln, NM. He previously produced last year’s concert “Breakaway!” and several earlier benefit shows in Ruidoso. As producer Duffy picked the music and performers and pulled the whole operation together. Ticket sales, publicity, and fundraising in Ruidoso was handled by the Lincoln County Advisory Council, COPE’s volunteer fundraising committee. The Ruidoso show was emceed by Brian Scott, a karaoke champion and one of the performers in the show, and Ingrid Fowler, chair of the Lincoln County Advisory Council.

The Alamogordo show was emceed by Sarah Eldridge of the COPE Board of Directors, and Sarina Turnbull, Miss New Mexico in 2011. They came out between numbers to banter and to remind the audience of the serious purpose behind the show.

The Alamogordo audience got a special treat at the end of their concert, with the Showtime Allstars performing hip-hop routines to a medley of songs from the show.

COPE concerts are usually held in the Spring. Watch for notices in this newsletter or on the COPE web site or Facebook page.



## Casino Night raises funds for COPE’s Lincoln County office

A happy crowd attended COPE’s second annual Casino Night fundraiser on May 2 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Mescalero. The event was organized by the Lincoln County Advisory Council, COPE’s fundraising arm for its Ruidoso office.

The event was catered by the Inn, which also provided the gaming equipment, croupiers, and dealers. The games, all played with play money handed out at the door, were blackjack, Texas Hold ‘Em, and craps. The crowd especially appreciated the half-hour training session on the games

at the beginning of the evening. Charlie Meeks, Regional Sales Manager for the Inn, handled all the local arrangements and was on hand all evening to ensure everything ran smoothly. Ken Berry sang for the audience throughout the evening.

There were both silent and live auctions for real money. Layton Black was the auctioneer for the live auction, with Don Fowler displaying the items. The evening ended with an auction for play money of a number of tickets and packages donated by the Inn.



Left, preparing for the live auction, with Susan Finch, Kay Gomolak, and artist Cynthia Smith. Right, Don Fowler holds up Victoria Mauldin’s painting “Close Call” for bidders to see.

## Silent Witnesses highlight the problem of domestic violence

In 1990, an ad hoc group of women artists and writers, along with several women's organizations in Minnesota, joined together to form Arts Action Against Domestic Violence. Their mission was to speak out about escalating domestic violence in their state. They chose to commemorate the lives of 26 women who had been killed that year in Minnesota as a result of domestic violence. They designed 26 free-standing, life-sized red wooden figures. Each figure bore the name of the woman who had been killed. A twenty-seventh figure was added to represent those uncounted women whose murders went unsolved or were erroneously ruled accidental. The organizers called the figures the Silent Witnesses. In 1994 a national initiative was formed using Silent Witnesses to highlight the problem of domestic violence throughout the nation.

Several years ago COPE, in collaboration with the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement officials, established a Silent Witness exhibit. The six

homicide victims remembered in the exhibit are Melissa Luera, Victor Eaglestar, Deborah Rhoudes and her unborn child, Deputy Robert Hedman Jr., Liz Ballard and Daniele Fuller. There are also two child sized witnesses who represent the daughter of Deborah Rhoudes and the son of Melissa Luera and Victor Eaglestar. These children witnessed the murder of their parents by their mother's boyfriend and husband respectively. A ninth life-sized cutout represents all of the individuals who have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence but whose cases have gone as yet unresolved.

Perry Lawson, COPE's Community Educator, is the "guardian" of COPE's Silent Witnesses. He says, "The Silent Witness exhibit makes a solemn, powerful statement about domestic violence." If you would like to have the exhibit at your community event, please contact Perry at 575-434-3622 ext. 111.



The Silent Witnesses at Tiger Stadium in Alamogordo in 2009.

## School's out, but not for long! We need school supplies

School is out for the summer. Hooray! And this is just the right time to begin thinking about getting ready for the next school year!

Each year COPE helps many children to have the supplies they need to go to school. We are seeking assistance from the community as we gather school supplies for the children we serve. Some of these children reside at COPE's shelter in Alamogordo. However, many of our clients do not live at the shelter. They are sometimes struggling to meet the needs of their families, and we are able to support

them by supplying their children with items for school.

These children will need backpacks, pencils, paper, notebooks, crayons and tissue boxes, as well as all the other items on the lists provided by the area schools. If you would like to make a donation of school supplies, you may bring them to COPE's offices located at 909 South Florida in Alamogordo and at 1204 Mechem, Suite 12, in Ruidoso.

# COPE News CENTER OF PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT

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



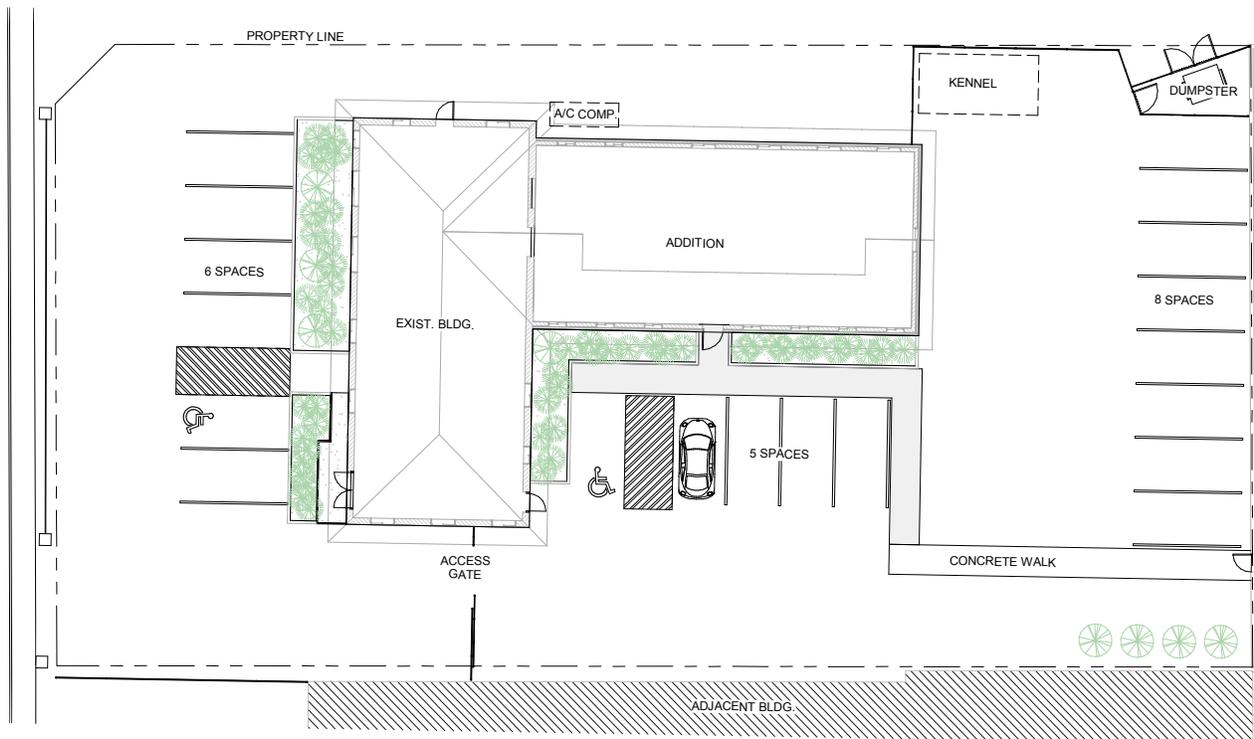
**Our Vision:** A community knowledgeable about domestic violence and abuse and fully engaged and committed to its eradication.

**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.



## COPE to double size of Alamogordo office

The COPE Board of Directors are unveiling their plans to expand and improve COPE's Alamogordo office located at 909 South Florida. "The current office has served us well for the past sixteen years," says Board President Allen Stenger. "However, the office and its surrounding area need an upgrade to better meet the needs of our clients."

The plans for the property include doubling the size of the building, by adding offices and providing a larger meeting room which will include technology updates to allow staff and clients to participate in webinars and host community training events. The first phase of the project will be the addition of approximately 2,000 square feet on the northeast side of the existing building. Once the addition is completed, the current building will be remodeled. Finally, the surrounding property will be redesigned to improve

security and to allow for safe passage of shelter residents from the shelter to the office.

ASA Architects in Las Cruces have been hired to design and oversee the project. Their preliminary site plan is shown above.

The project will cost approximately \$600,000. "We have half the money to put into the project," says Kay Gomolak, COPE's Executive Director, "but we will need to raise funds and probably get a mortgage to pay the full cost." COPE is funded primarily through grants, but it is almost impossible to get grants for brick-and-mortar projects. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this project may do so by designating their donation to go to COPE's Capital Campaign.