

Volume 5, Issue 1
March 2013

In this issue:

“Stronger” concert	1
Annual Report.	1
Women of Merit	2
Twice Blest donation.	3
Call us	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

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

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

www.copedv.org

Shelter Needs

Pillows

Hair ties, brushes

Hair conditioner

New underwear for children and women

Canned food

Towels

Mattress covers

Diapers and wipes

Stronger: COPE Benefit Concert March 16 & 30

This year’s COPE benefit concert will be performed at two venues: Mountain Annie’s on March 16 and the Flickinger on March 30. This evening of entertainment promises to wow its audiences through the power of popular song and dance and its extremely talented local performers. Even as you read this, volunteers from our community are hard at work: rehearsing their songs, building sets, and selling tickets for this fundraising show, which will be a memorable highlight of the 2013 seasons at Mountain Annie’s and the Flickinger.

Celebrating Human Strength

Approximately 19 songs will be performed by area singers and dancers from a variety of musical genres: pop, country, jazz, R&B and rock. Many of the songs were hits for their original Top 40 recording artists: Kelly Clarkson, Sara Evans, Chicago, and more. Songs for this show are chosen not simply for their popularity, but for the story each one conveys. The general theme of Stronger is empowerment: the confidence and the perseverance to overcome serious challenges in life. This theme comes to life in these lyrics from the top 40 hit “A Little Bit Stronger” by Sara Evans: “Doesn’t happen overnight, / But you turn around and a month’s gone by / And you realize you haven’t cried. / I’m not giving you an hour or a second or another minute longer. / I’m busy getting stronger.”

(continues on p. 2)



COPE Annual Report: Another strong year

Calendar year 2012 has been a relatively peaceful one for our agency. We continue to receive many positive comments from our clients, both survivors and offenders. Our annual financial audit was performed in September with no adverse findings. We are completing the second year of implementing the Sanctuary Model, a culture-building method for creating a therapeutic community for staff and clients.

Physical plant: The shelter building has continued to leak water when it rains, and a number of improvements have been applied in an attempt to fix this. The most drastic was to replace all the windows, which seems to have fixed most of the leaks (most of which were around windows). We have applied some ad hoc fixes for the remaining leaks. There are no known leaks at this

time, but it has been a dry year and we will continue to monitor this.

We have also replaced the aging and trouble-prone agency van with a new Honda Odyssey. Our friends the Mudslingers installed bollards in the shelter parking lot and re-stripped both parking lots as part of their Holloman Big Give activity. The inverters in the shelter photovoltaic system has been giving trouble, and one of these was replaced and another was repaired. Installation of playground equipment at shelter was completed.

Board of Directors: This year we have concentrated on building up the size and capability of the Board. During the year we grew the Board from 9 to 12 directors. We have also beefed up the Board committees,

(continues on p. 3)

Stronger Concert (from p. 1)

“This is what Stronger is all about,” says show creator Steve Duffy, from Lincoln County. “That epiphany that comes when you realize that you have the strength to stand up, or to move on, or to rise above, or to overcome a major personal tragedy or obstacle.” Other songs with similar themes are woven together with an empowering effect on both the performers and audience members. Another example is Whitney Houston’s “I Didn’t Know My Own Strength”: “Survived my darkest hour / My faith kept me alive / I picked myself back up / Hold my head up high / I was not built to break.”

Duffy earlier created three similar shows at the Spencer Theater called “Survivor” that benefitted HEAL and The Nest domestic violence shelter in Ruidoso Downs. He also produced a show called “Shine On” at the Spencer in 2011 to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters and brought “Break-away” to the Flickinger Center stage to benefit COPE in Alamogordo last year. “My idea with these shows is to build awareness and support of critically needed services in our communities,” says Duffy.

Super-Talented Cast of Lincoln and Otero Locals

So who gets to tell these amazing stories on stage at Mountain Annie’s March 16th? The cast of Stronger comes in many shapes, sizes, ages, nationalities and backgrounds. Their interests, occupations and personalities are also very diverse. These local musicians, along with some amazing young dancers from both the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble and the Academy of Ballet, will round out the cast of Stronger. Chances are you will know at least one of the many performers in this special show. These accomplished amateur artists are your neighbors, your co-workers or your friends, so please come out and support them at these shows. Get ready to be impressed by their talents, and inspired by the critically-important message they’ll share. A compelling



Khaliya Sago, a star of last year’s show, will perform in the Ruidoso concert. (Photo: Rachel Telles ©Rachel Telles Photography)

thing about this production is that you get to see a totally different side of your local bank teller, sandwich-maker or contractor. On this special night, these members of our community come together and become local heroes: powerful performers on the local stage. Performers from former shows have described the experience as “life-changing” or “a turning point” for them as performers.

If you go:

Ruidoso performance: March 16, 7:30 PM, at Mountain Annie’s, 2710 Sudderth. Tickets: General Admission \$25, available at Mountain Annie’s, the COPE Ruidoso office, or from any COPE Advisory Board member.

Alamogordo performance: March 30, 7:30 PM, at the Flickinger, 1110 New York Avenue. Tickets: General Admission \$25 (lower level) or \$15 (balcony), available at the Flickinger, the COPE Alamogordo office, or from any COPE Board member.

Women of Merit recognizes outstanding women for 2013

COPE is privileged to partner again this year with the Alamogordo Daily News to recognize and honor women in the community who enrich the lives of those around them and contribute to others through their hard work and dedication.

“Alamogordo Daily News is happy to partner with the Center of Protective Environment for this annual event that honors women from all walks of life,” ADN Multi-Media Consultant and COPE board member Sarah Eldridge said. “It’s a great show of solidarity between us as a business and COPE as a non-profit to work together and shed light on women who may otherwise be overlooked, who prefer to do their good deeds anonymously.”

The Alamogordo Daily News has been honoring local women in this way for the past 13 years. COPE has one

board member, Sheila Harrison, and four staff members, Esther Hein, Kay Gomolak, Veronica Gutierrez and Connie Garcia who are previous recipients of this prestigious award.

Nominations are accepted from the community and reviewed by a panel from the Alamogordo Daily News. The 2013 honorees are: Denise Lang, Donna Clark, Linda Rardin, Lisa Durrett House, Marriane White, Maureen Schmittle, Mary Jo Garst, Melinda Fowler, Robin Wolf, and Susan Baker. COPE congratulates these women and thanks them for their special contributions to our community.

Please join us on Saturday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts where the 2013 awardees will be recognized.

COPE Annual Report (from p. 1)

including recruiting some outside experts, and moved most work into the committees. The Board and the management team met in August to review progress on the agency Strategic Plan that was developed in 2010; we are largely on track after two years, and made a few adjustments to the plan. We have continued the tradition of quarterly Board-Staff lunches that give a chance for people to get to know each other.

Source of funds: COPE continues to be funded primarily by its Children Youth and Families Division (CYFD) contract, with significant contributions from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and United Way of Otero County. In addition we continue to run the Annual Appeal in December of each year. Our fundraising events were the Breakaway! concert held in March at the Flickinger Center, the Statehood Stampede (a one-off 5K walk and run tied to the New Mexico Centennial), and the Golf Skills Challenge in July at Desert Lakes Golf Course. In Lincoln County our volunteer fundraising auxiliary, the Lincoln County Advisory Council, continues to work hard for COPE, and put on a successful Casino Night in May at the Swiss Chalet in Ruidoso.

Publicity: Our Community Education and Outreach Director, Perry Lawson, continues to be everywhere in the community and is both educating the public and making COPE visible. The Board's Community Outreach Committee has been much more active in 2012, and with the help of the COPE staff put out three issues of the COPE newsletter and has been updating the website and Facebook page more frequently. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) we had two events: a candlelight vigil in the Rose Garden and a first-time-ever Family and Community Fair at the NMSU-A Tays Center. Both were well attended. Beginning in 2012 COPE is co-sponsor (with Alamogordo Daily News) of the long-standing Women of

Merit program; we get publicity at the event and in the associated newspaper insert and advertising leading up to the event. We have a good working relationship with the Daily News and are able to get good publicity for our events.

Statistics: These are for the fiscal year, 7/1/11-6/30/12:

- Civil Legal services contract: 64 clients
- Lincoln VAWA contract, services to survivors of DV: 51
- VOCA Otero contract, victim services: 241
- VOCA Lincoln contract, victim services: 131
- Shelter: 187 adults and children
- Shelter nights: 6,235
- CYFD contract clients: Survivors, 216; Child witnesses, 100; Perpetrators, 243; Youth Intimate Partner Victim, 1
- Community education presentations and booths: 216, 483.5 units of service, reached an estimated 8,022 children; 6,128 adults

Challenges and Plans for 2013: Funding continues to be a challenge, and we continue to work on grants and fundraisers. We are in the early stages of planning an expansion of the Alamogordo office that will double its size. We are also in the early stages of creating a partnership with First Presbyterian Church to use an existing house they own ("Reed House") as a transitional living facility for residents moving out of the shelter. We are planning expanded legal services for our clients; this has gotten off to a slow start due to problems getting it staffed, but we expect to move out on this early in 2013. The 2013 benefit concert will be titled Stronger and will be performed in both Alamogordo and Ruidoso. The Sanctuary Model will continue and should be completely implemented in November 2014 (it is a three-year process). Our goal for the Board is grow to 15 directors by the end of the year.

Allen Stenger, COPE Board President

A hearty thanks to all who help COPE!

We are grateful to the Alamogordo Twice Blest Thrift Store for donating funding to purchase car seats (pictured right) and over the counter medications for the victims of domestic violence and their children who are in residence at COPE's shelter. We receive many donations from individuals and community groups which help us to help our clients. If you or your community group are interested in helping the victims of domestic violence and children we serve through a donation, the following items are always needed by our clients: canned food, diapers, school supplies, used cell phones to be used by clients as 911 phones, AAA batteries, baby monitors, new underwear, bras & socks for women, new underwear and socks for children, pillows, big bottles of shampoo, conditioner and deodorant, hairbrushes, hair ties, combs, alarm clocks. We also are in need of full and twin size mattresses and frames.



COPE News CENTER OF PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT

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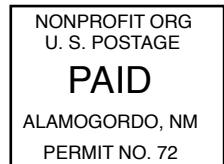
Our Vision: A community knowledgeable about domestic violence and abuse and fully engaged and committed to its eradication.

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.



Call us, for yourself or for others

Sometimes the people who come to see us at COPE are not the ones being abused. They are the parents, the siblings, the good friends of people in abusive relationships.

People are coming to COPE looking for information about domestic violence and wanting to know how they can help their loved ones. At COPE, we welcome the opportunity to help victims of domestic violence and their children in this way.

COPE can provide basic information about domestic violence to help concerned family members or friends discern whether their loved one is in an abusive relationship. A COPE staff member will meet with concerned family mem-

bers or friends and help them to decide how they can help. Every situation is unique, however we always recommend that friends or family members keep the lines of communication open and provide support to the person they suspect is being abused. Isolation is often a tactic of control used by abusive partners, and it is important to let victims know they are not alone, no matter what their abusive partner says.

Concerned family members or friends may contact us at our office at 909 South Florida Avenue in Alamogordo or at our office at 1204 Mechem, Suite 12, Ruidoso.