



Welcome!

Inside this issue:

<i>Client Profile</i>	2
<i>Community Education</i>	2
<i>Alamogordo Steps Up For COPE Kids</i>	2
<i>Foodraiser Project</i>	3
<i>Christmas Star Gala</i>	3
<i>Candlelight Vigil</i>	3
<i>How You Can Help</i>	4

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter which is intended to provide you, a COPE supporter, information regarding our accomplishments, challenges, needs, and issues.

As an overview, the Center of Protective Environment (COPE) is a private, non-profit agency whose mission is to reduce the risk of family and relationship violence in Otero and Lincoln Counties. The organization was established in 1980 through the grass roots efforts of women in Alamogordo, some of whom had personal experiences with domestic abuse. In 1983, they established the organization as a non-profit corporation and

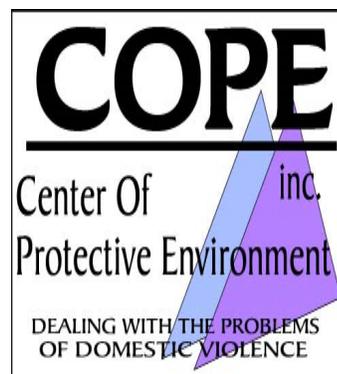
obtained the first grant from the Women's Opportunity Giving Fund of the Presbyterian Church. With the help of this grant, COPE offered advocacy and counseling services to victims of domestic violence in Otero County.

In 1985, the City of Alamogordo donated a residence to COPE for use as a shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. This facility was used for 22 years. A new shelter was completed in 2007. This new shelter more than doubles our capacity.

COPE is here to serve our community. If you know someone experiencing domes-

tic violence, COPE is here to help.

We are located at 909 South Florida Avenue in Alamogordo and at 2900 Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso. Our phone numbers are: 434-3622 (Alamogordo office), 437-2673 (shelter & crisis line), 257-4946 (Ruidoso).



In 2007, COPE provided direct services to:

- 574 adult victims of domestic violence
- 119 children exposed to violence.
- 360 offenders

for a total of 1,052 clients, a 34% increase from 2006.

Services Provided By COPE

COPE not only provides a residence shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. At our offices in Alamogordo and Ruidoso we also provide individual and group counseling services for victims, children who experience domestic violence, and

domestic violence offenders. We also provide legal services for victims seeking protection orders. We have a 24-hour crisis hotline, face-to-face crisis intervention, and information and referral services. Through donations, we do our best to provide personal assistance to

clients, i.e. food, clothing, household items. Many of our clients start from scratch to rebuild their lives. Contact us to find out how you can help.

Client Profile

Our client profile is representative of our community. Our most recent statistical data representing our clients is as follows:

45% were Caucasian

41% were Hispanic

5% were Native American

4% were African American

5% were Other/Unknown

16% of our clients spoke a language other than English, generally Spanish. Of the cli-

ents COPE assisted, 71% had incomes below the federal poverty level.

4% male victims served

96% female victims served

Victim Ages:

17—less than 1%

18 to 21 — 8%

22 to 40 — 68%

41 to 59 — 27%

60 to 74 — 3%

75 and older — less than 1%

Unknown — 4%

Offender Ages:

18 to 21—10%

22 to 40— 60%

41 to 59—25%

60 to 74—3%

75 and older—less than 1%

Unknown—3%



Community Education

New Mexico ranks 4th in the nation for the incidence of domestic violence. Last year, we provided 365 training programs to 8,744 people in our effort to education our community. We have a number of audience-specific classes we provide such as:

Domestic Violence Overview

and History

Understanding the Effects On Children and Domestic Violence

Teen Dating Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Relationships

Puppets Are Life Savers (PALS) for PreK thru 5th

Grade

Anti-violence for the Classroom K—6th

Please contact our Community Educator, Perry Lawson at 442-6306 or email

lawsonp@netmdc.com for more information.



Alamogordo Steps Up for COPE Kids

Many families come to our shelter with nothing. At the start of the school year, we had 70 kids on our client list with no school supplies.

Consequently BANK'34, Alamo National Bank, Holloman AFB, and Bethel Baptist Church set up donation boxes

and collected 70 backpacks and many school supplies to go into the backpacks.

School supplies are a constant need. When those families come to the COPE shelter, they often are forced to leave everything behind, including their schools supplies, back-

packs, books, etc. We are stocking a school supply pantry to always be able to enable a child to go to school. We appreciate any donations to our school pantry throughout the year.



FY2008 Food Raiser Project

During our Fiscal Year 2008, we conducted a number of fundraisers in support of victims of domestic violence. Hopefully you heard and were part of many of them.

In January 2008, we found ourselves out of food funds for our shelter. What would normally have lasted a year was gone in six months due to the growing number of residents. Our community came through for us with our Food Raiser

Drive. We were successful in raising \$7,454.20 in funds and an immeasurable quantity of food and supplies. In May, the local chapter of NM Educational Retirees brought a truck load of supplies to help. We live with a budget of \$1.55 a day per person. That's not much and with an ever increasing client base, we find ourselves short routinely. Here is our list of our always needed items:

Cereal, ground beef, milk, eggs, cheese, lettuce, bacon, canned meat, coffee, dry creamer, sugar, tea bags, personal care items, diapers, paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, toothpaste, antiperspirant, shampoo, conditioner, cleaning supplies, low suds laundry detergent, disinfectant spray.



Members of the OCAER, Otero County Association of Educational Retirees

Christmas Star Gala

We are pleased to announce COPE's Christmas Star Gala. This formal event will take place the evenings of November 21 and 22 at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts.

Following a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception, concertgoers will be treated to a premier concert of Christmas and Broadway music. Featuring

local favorites Kari Simmons and Mike Julian, and introducing Jo Blackstone, the evening will be a high-quality event that you will be sure to be talking about for years to come!

Tickets will be \$20 per person, and all proceeds will benefit COPE. Tickets will be available beginning October 1 from any COPE Board Member or

at the Flickinger box office. We hope you join us at this red carpet kickoff to the holiday season, and thank you for supporting COPE!



"Poinsettia" or "Christmas Star"

Candlelight Vigil

This year the members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and COPE will conduct the annual candlelight vigil at the beginning of the Alamo-gordo High School football game on October 24th.

Several years ago, a young woman, Melissa Luera, was murdered by her partner in her

home not far from the stadium. We take this time to honor her and other persons in our community who are victims of domestic violence every day.

As you enter the stadium, you will be given a small flashlight and a purple ribbon. Please wear the ribbon as evidence of

your support of this cause against domestic violence. The flashlight has the phone number of COPE's crisis line. Please share that number with anyone you know who needs help with domestic violence. We must stand together on this issue.



Center of Protective Environment (COPE)

909 South Florida Ave
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Hotline: 575.437.2673
Office: 575.434.3622

2900 Sudderth Drive, Ste. C
Ruidoso, NM 88345

Hotline: 1.866.350.2673
Office: 575.257.4946

Love Shouldn't Hurt



The purpose of the Center of Protective Environment, Inc. (COPE) is to provide services that act to reduce the risk of family and relationship abuse in Otero and Lincoln Counties, New Mexico. Our mission is to provide a variety of services to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, including but not limited to: shelter and housing advocacy to reduce homelessness, crisis intervention, advocacy and counseling services. COPE is dedicated to the treatment and prevention of family and relationship violence whenever possible. COPE advocates for community involvement to help deal with the problem of family and relationship violence within the community.

How You Can Help



Specifically for kids, we are always in need of: pajamas, various sizes; socks; school clothes; training bras; coats; backpacks; loose leaf paper; pens; pencils; notebooks; rulers; erasers.

For COPE in general, we are looking for: website developer; distributor and maintainer of COPE pamphlets and materials in the community; interpreters, including signing; "Adopt" a family ; flashlight fillers; envelope stuffers; public relations help, designing material, radio ads, newsletter and website updates, and maintenance support at our buildings.

We just found out that Alamogordo Public Schools did not apply for a grant this year that

has helped the kids in our shelter in the past. This was a homeless grant that helped pay for clothes and schools supplies for kids in our shelter--as well as others in our community who were homeless.

We were also funded to provide transportation to and from school for these kids. Some may not be safe to ride a bus so we provide door to door service for them. Also, putting them on the bus gives away their location and takes away their anonymity. They may not want others to know they are with us.

What we need for these kids is an ongoing stash of school supplies, including back packs and clothes. We need to have

underwear and pajamas on hand for kids of all ages, and we need a ready resource of funding to get them the clothes they need to go to school.

Recently, we had a family with three children who did not tell us they had nothing but the clothes on their backs, and they were hand washing their clothes every night for the next day.

Please contact us for more information on how you can make a difference in someone's life.