

Volume 4, Issue 2
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COPE email list

We're starting 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)
copedv.org

Shelter Needs

- Pillows
- Towels
- Full-size blankets
- Make-up
- Hair conditioner
- Backpacks for adults and children
- Booster seats
- Alarm clocks
- Hair dryers
- Body lotion

Help us observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is observed all over the United States every year as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. COPE has two special events planned. Admission to both events is free.

There will be a candlelight vigil at the Rose Garden, Monday, October 8, 7 PM. The Rose Garden is in Washington Park in Alamogordo, at the northeast corner of

Tenth Street and Oregon Avenue (across Tenth from the Public Library).

We will hold a Community & Family Fair at the Tays Center at NMSU-Alamogordo, Saturday, October 27, 12-4 PM. The Fair is cosponsored by NMSU-A and features: domestic violence awareness displays, crafts, local organizations & vendors, food, live demonstrations, costume contest for 12 and under, face painting, bounce house, and giveaways. A splendid time is guaranteed for all.

Bring out the whole family for a solemn event on the 8th and a more light-hearted one on the 27th.



Quality of Life tax on November ballot

Voters in the General Election in Otero County will vote on imposing a 1/4% Gross Receipts Tax in the unincorporated areas of the County (it will not be imposed inside the City of Alamogordo, the Village of Tularosa, or the Village of Cloudcroft). All registered voters in Otero County will vote on the tax. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, and early voting starts October 9 at the County Clerk's office and October 20 at remote voting locations. If passed, the tax will raise about \$1 million each year, which can be applied to cultural and social projects. COPE currently receives some funding from the County. It's not clear from the law whether this tax might be used to fund COPE directly, but the tax would increase the pool of money available for cultural and social programs and so would at least help COPE indirectly.

Golf Skills Challenge results

Carl Clark is the winner of COPE's 2012 Golf Skills Challenge, held July 28 at Desert Lakes Golf Course in Alamogordo. COPE raised about \$5,000 from the event. Many thanks to Jason Baldwin for organizing the event and to Desert Lakes Golf Course for hosting it. Watch for this event next year in the summer; we plan to run it in the afternoon this time to catch the golfers who play a full round in the morning.



COPE's certified programs for domestic violence offenders

COPE is committed to end domestic violence whenever possible. To that end we operate domestic violence offender intervention programs in Alamogordo and Ruidoso. Last year 243 individuals participated in our domestic violence offender treatment and intervention (DVOTI) programs. Most individuals in this program are court-ordered to participate, although we do accept self-referrals. Our program is certified by the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, and is the only certified program in Otero and Lincoln Counties.

Participation in our DVOTI program begins with an individual intake and thorough assessment with a counselor or domestic violence specialist. Most often, individuals are then referred to our 52-week group program for offenders. Group sessions have been proven to be the most effective approach for domestic violence offenders. Each week we operate four groups for men in Alamogordo, two groups for men in Ruidoso and one group for women in Alamogordo.

Many people ask us if we have any specific studies to know the effect our program has for participants. Although we are constantly monitoring their progress while they are participating in our program, we do not have a way of monitoring the progress of individuals beyond their 52-week participation. However, we do have participants complete surveys monthly which reveal some important feedback on how they are learning. A question is asked that says: "My behavior has affected by partner, my children and other family members and my community." There is a shift from a "Disagree" response generally seen from early participants (1 to 8 sessions) to "Agree" from participants who have attended more than 24 sessions.

We do believe that these year-long groups make a difference for changing the lives of individuals who have been domestic violence offenders and for their families. The following is a quote from one of our participants on his final survey, and it is a testament to the impact this program has had on him: "The group leaders made sure I was active and involved with the class every week. They took time to explain how to handle situations with plenty of options to prevent a fight. I learned the importance of proper communication, trust, respect and love to build a healthy relation-

Goals for participants in DVOTI

- To immediately cease use of abusive behavior in all its forms.
- To assist the offender to understand that these acts of violence, abuse and use of power and privilege are a means of controlling the victim's actions, thoughts and feelings.
- To encourage the offender to acknowledge abuse and recognize the use of abusive power as a choice and to accept responsibility for its impact on the victims and others.
- To increase the offender's willingness to change abusive behavior by examining the negative effects of the behavior on the relationship, the victim, the children, friends and personally.
- To expand the offender's understanding of the cause of the violence and abuse by examining the cultural, social and personal factors that influence his/her choice to be violent and abusive.
- To teach the offender practical skills for non-controlling and non-violent ways of relating to the partner.
- To encourage the offender to become accountable to those he/she has abused, to take whatever actions are necessary to comply with the safety needs of his/her partner and to make restitution for the effects of the abuse.

ship. I learned that domestic violence can affect children in many ways that could ruin their childhood and carry on with them to their family."



Artwork created during a group activity of the children at the shelter.



The Mudslingers team in the Holloman Big Give, as one of their projects this year, installed bollards in the COPE shelter parking lot. For their work for COPE and for SANE this year the Mudslingers came in second in the Big Give People’s Choice award, and best all around in large team category. Photos, left to right: testing the bollard holes before they are filled; the right tool for the job; more fun than making mud pies; side project to test the equipment in the shelter playground; the final result. Thank you, Mudslingers!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Clothesline Project

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. One of the annual activities held in Domestic Violence Awareness Month is the Clothesline Project. Battered women’s support groups and survivor groups at COPE’s shelter will express their feelings and concerns about domestic violence on colored t-shirts. Many of the people who design these shirts may not have been given the opportunity to express themselves in a visual, artistic and confidential manner in the past. Designing a shirt offers a way to express their loss and demonstrate how their lives have been changed by a senseless act of violence.

The clothesline project originated with 31 shirts in Hyan-nis, MA in 1990, through the Cape Cod Women’s agenda. A small group of women, many of whom had experienced violence in their own lives, designed a visual monument to help transform staggering statistics about violence against women and children into a powerful healing tool. The Clothesline Project offers survivors an opportunity to leave behind some

of their pain and move on to the next phase of their lives. The originators decided to use the clothesline after realizing how many women in close-knit neighborhoods have exchanged information over backyard fences while hanging their laundry out to dry. The Clothesline Project breaks the silence about violence against women and children by giving voice to survivors.

Every October in honor of victims and survivors of domestic violence, COPE displays these painted t-shirts in its offices and at events in the community. All the shirts displayed have been created by victims and survivors of domestic violence. The clothesline project helps educate and raise awareness about the crimes of violence against women and children. Although a display can be shocking, it is not designed to make you feel sorry for victims. Rather, it is a call to action: to acknowledge the history of violence against women and to join together to create change in our society personally, politically and culturally.

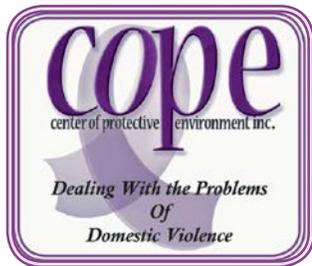


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Return Service Requested

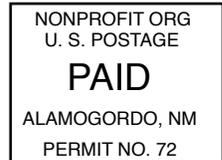
Our Vision: A community knowledgeable about domestic violence and abuse and fully engaged and committed to its eradication.

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.



Domestic Violence Offenders: Myths vs. Facts

Myth: *Couples counseling will help.*

Fact: We do not recommend couples counseling for couples when there is domestic violence in the relationship until the domestic violence is fully resolved and a safe balance of power is established in the relationship. We do not recommend couples counseling while individuals are participating in the DVOTI program.

Myth: *Our DVOTI (domestic violence offender treatment and intervention) program is an anger management program.*

Fact: Domestic violence offenders are often very good at managing their anger to get what they want from their victims. Our program is designed to teach offenders how to

reduce violence by gaining an understanding of his/her use of power and control in the relationship and by learning a variety of skills that are non-violent and non-controlling.

Myth: *Domestic violence offenders will learn what they need to know in a one day class.*

Fact: Changing controlling behaviors does not generally happen overnight. Instead, it takes time to learn new skills where the offender lets go of controlling behaviors. Our weekly groups give participants the opportunity to learn new skills and share their successes or difficulties with others in the year long program.