



JUNE 2018

“ OUR MISSION IS TO LEAD OUR COMMUNITY IN THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND BREAK THE CYCLE OF ABUSE ”

**THOUGHTS FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT
ELLEN MARTIN - PRESIDENT**

Board of Directors

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- Julie Warren**

Dear Friends,
As I reflect on all of the changes we have witnessed at COPE this last couple of weeks, I am reminded that our lives seem to constantly be in flux. Some of the changes are positive and open up new possibilities for us. Other happenings are heartbreaking, filled with unknowns and grief. No matter which category they fall into I suspect that we are left with only two choices. We can either become negative and overwhelmed or we can look at each new situation as a challenge. Life we know is never easy but rather filled with joys and pain. The way we handle it makes all the difference. COPE has always been about change. We assist young women to embrace change in their lives as difficult and frightening

as that may be.

I have been on the Board now for nine years and I have seen COPE meet the challenges that come from change. Advocates leave and new ones begin the hard work that COPE entails. We welcome Diana to COPE and will support her in every possible way that she may be successful. We see exciting changes with the remodeling and the purchase of a van and all that it will allow us to do. And we grieve with clients as they move through personal tragedy and upheaval. It is part of the work we do. We don't avoid but rather embrace change and we will continue to meet the challenges that it brings. We choose to support each other as we continue the hard work of COPE. We show compassion and strength meeting head on all of our challenges together as director, staff,

volunteers, and board. Thank you to each of you and stay strong.

Rev. Ellen Martin, President



**WHAT WE DO HERE
DIANA GASTON - PUBLISHER**

First and foremost, at COPE, we believe that every life is of value and is worth saving and protecting.

Our emergency shelter is a place of regeneration, where women can find rest as they reconnect

with themselves and their children in a safe, caring, and supportive environment. Families under stress produce children under stress. Whether they witnessed violence at home or endured abuse first-hand, children enter COPE with a distorted sense of self and an altered perception of family life. We

have a staff of advocates experienced in helping children recover and reconnect with their parent and siblings. Safety is the most important thing to focus on when leaving an abusive situation. We are here to help break the cycle of abuse.

- Diana Gaston

VOICE OF AN ADVOCATE

SHEILA UNGER

Voice of an Advocate

Advocate, Sheila Unger, is a life-long resident of Lebanon and is proud of it. Her family and friends are all in this area. After working at various jobs, she has found her niche at COPE. Even though she has only been at COPE for six months. Her service has already become invaluable. Mrs. Unger explained that she now feels as if she has a career and a purpose. That is evident, when you see and hear the exuberance, as she talks about COPE.

As an abuse survivor, Mrs. Unger has the personal perspective that is important to her work at COPE. She sees working at COPE as Divine Intervention. She was searching through the web and saw the advertisement for the job at COPE. She didn't think much of it; then, the advertisement showed again. Mrs. Unger decided that Someone was trying to tell her something. She is proud of her job and COPE is proud to have her.

Helping clients and working

with the other advocates are the positives she takes from working at COPE. There are always challenges. Sometimes things just aren't always good. There are the unknowns that prove to be difficult to anticipate.

Like all of the advocates, Mrs. Unger knows she is still learning. No situation is the same.

On behalf of the COPE Board, thank you, Sheila Unger, for joining our cause.

Marilyn Kimbrell, PhD



WE THANK YOU!

MARILYN KIMBRELL, PHD

I have used this space to brag about the wonderful things COPE Advocates and Staff do, and I will continue to sing their praises. However, I want to brag about another group of selfless individuals. The Board of Directors is relentless in their dedication to COPE. One of the prime examples of their dedication is in the fund-raising activities that are necessary to help maintain COPE.

In May, COPE had a very successful fish fry. There is no way to understand the amount of work that went into that event, unless you observed it. The hours it took

to solicit and prepare the auction items were just the beginning. The day of the event began with board members preparing the space. During the event, board members and their families served the dinner. As I was leaving, the board members were still making the facility ready for future use.

This fall will be the Annual COPE Trivia Night. Those same board members will work just as hard to insure the success of that event.

Those are two obvious examples of the work done by the board members. But other

board activities are not as obvious. There are many hours of dedication to general meetings and committee meetings. Those hours often reveal more needs that only board members can meet.

The operation of The COPE Shelter requires the dedication of many people. The Board of Directors is an important part of that dedication.

Thank you,

*Marilyn Kimbrell PhD,
Vice President of Operations*

**Go forward in
life with a
twinkle in your
eye and a smile
on your face.
but with great
and strong
purpose in your
heart." Gordon
B. Hinekley**

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JUDITH KILE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our line of work, every day is different. Some days are very happy and rewarding; there are successes and we see positive differences that we help make. Other days our hearts hurt for the pain our clients and their children go through.

As staff, we work closely together to create the best care we can for each of our clients. Our collaboration is the backbone of that care. Our heart is the emotion of that care. Every client advocate here has the ability to give their heart to others, and they are doing so, willingly. I would love to tell the public all we have accomplished, but to do so would break confidentiality, so I will just tell you that my staff is amazing!

Please always keep us in your thoughts and prayers. We need strength to face the difficult work and open hearts to know what is needed.

Thank you!

Judy Kile, Executive Director



"YOU CAN HELP"



STOP THE
VIOLENCE

COPE'S CORNER

Cope Averages 4,999 Overnight Stays Annually.

Did you know that there is a woman beaten every 9 seconds in the US?

We are in need of "Liquid Hand Soap and Paper towels".

- Judith Kile, Executive Director

24 Hour Hotline

417-532-2885

Many of COPE's Clients are only able to escape the abusive situations with the clothes on their backs.

There are several different ways that you can donate to COPE..

For example you can donate YOUR TIME or you can donate FINANCIALLY.