



Creating Opportunities for Personal Empowerment

## COPE Newsletter

July 2017

### Thoughts from our Board President: Carol Roam



Well August is upon us and that means for many of us "back to school". Whether you are a parent/ grandparent getting a child ready for the new school year, a teacher, or actually a student yourself this can be a time of anticipation, excitement, and maybe even some fear and anxiety over the unknown (e.g. new classrooms, new teachers, new classmates, new buildings, maybe even new residences.) The comfortable, easygoing routine of the summer disappears. I hope for you it is mainly a time of eager expectation for what the new school year holds.

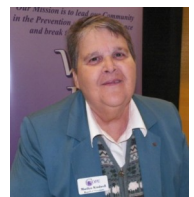
This makes me think too of the tremendous courage our clients often have to muster to break out of the cycle of violence. This can be terrifying because their normal structure may be completely turned upside down and their lives full of uncertainty. They must face new routines/ schedules, new people, and new places. Questions as to where they will go from here, what are their options. what decisions will be best for their family all need to be addressed at some point. I applaud them and pray for them as I hope you do as well. Thanks so much for all that you do to support our courageous clients.

### From the Editor:

Today, there has been a break in the temperature. We have had some rain and the grass is returning green again. Most of us are enjoying the reprieve and are doing some outside chores. During the long hot days of summer, we always enjoy these kinds of breaks.

As is often the case, I began thinking about the COPE Clients. I was reminded that they often endure weeks, months, and even years of abuse. The sad fact is that many never receive a reprieve.

Our mission at COPE is to provide a reprieve from the heat and the abuse. If you or someone you know is suffering from abuse, please encourage them to seek help at the COPE Shelter. We are in the reprieve business.



**Marilyn Kimbrell, PhD**

*Marilyn Kimbrell*

### COPE Presents: Viva Las Vegas!

Slots, Roulette, and Black Jack, oh my! On July 8<sup>th</sup>, COPE held our first ever, Viva Las Vegas night! Everyone that came benefitted twofold; as it was an evening filled with enjoyment as well as the wonderful feeling of helping a neighbor.

We want to heartily thank Jeffrey Myers, Edward Jones for being our "Royal Flush" Corporate Sponsor and Ed & Helen Bracket, Galleria Fine Jewelry for being our "Wild Card" Corporate Sponsor. We also want to thank our Silent Auction Sponsor, Graven Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep & Ram. You are great advocates of COPE and we appreciate you.

Viva Las Vegas night included games, music, spilt-the-deck, silent auction, chapel, cupcakes, food trucks, a photo booth and so much more! If you missed this event you will not want to miss the next one! The food from both Vern's and Twisted Mike's was delicious and Dark Stone Coffee was amazing! We were also happy to have Boat Town Brewery as a part of our evening.

We had our Peacock Cupcakes, by Nancy Cook, as we traditionally do, this time a really fun, "Vegas Style". The reason we use the peacock at our event is they are symbolic of rising from the ashes, or new beginnings. We feel that illustrates what we do at COPE, assist with those new beginnings and helping them RISE.

There was some incredible balloon art at our entrance and near our Silent auction provided by Ozark Visions that added so much to the evening. You will want to go on to our Facebook page and "like" us and check out all our pictures from the evening. Yes, Elvis WAS in the building! The Viva Las Vegas Committee worked very hard putting this event together, all to benefit COPE. We were extremely proud of all those businesses and individuals who donated to our Silent Auction.

Please consider coming to our next Viva Las Vegas Event if you missed this one! If you came we THANK YOU for supporting our efforts to advance our mission at COPE.





Judy's Column  
From COPE's  
Executive Director,  
Judy Kile

As our Change Can Campaign comes to a close, we want to thank all of you for supporting COPE with your change.

This has turned out to be a way for even the children, to give to those in need and it has been wonderful to hear your stories.

***Your Change Can Change a Life*** and your generosity has been amazing!

Again, thank you and we look forward to seeing you at Trivia Night on October 14th!

Sincerely,

Judy Kile, Med  
Executive Director

Your support can help positively affect the lives for all of COPE's clients.



(417) 533-5201

## Donate -

COPE is a not-for-profit organization and has a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service, which means COPE is funded by grants available on the Federal and State level, as well as private donations.

Many times, our clients leave their abusive environments with only the clothes on their backs. Some are lucky enough to have had the ability to have an emergency bag packed and hidden from their abuser, waiting for their opportunity to escape. Therefore, whenever they are able to leave the COPE Shelter, they are literally starting over with whatever items they were able to take with them, or obtain after they arrived at the COPE Shelter.

Because of the financial needs COPE has in assisting our clients with immediate needs and the financial assistance they will need when we are able to help get them on their feet, every financial contribution helps. Your monthly (or) one-time donation will be used to assist with COPE's most urgent financial need unless you designate your donation to a specific project COPE is actively working to fund.

Therefore, we would like to encourage you to take a moment and contact COPE at the phone number listed below to get more information regarding YOUR financial donation!



### What IS Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence actually comes in all shapes and sizes and various forms, as every relationship is different.

Learn to recognize the Warning Signs, as they can involve: these various types of abuse:

Physical Abuse  
Emotional Abuse  
Psychological Abuse  
Sexual Abuse  
Reproductive Abuse  
Financial Abuse  
Digital Abuse  
and Stalking

**Sign up today to start your auto-deduct  
Monthly or a One-Time Donation.**

*Friends of*



There are several contribution levels to choose from:

**Protector: \$15 Monthly Gift**

Protect women & children from abuse

**Defender: \$25 Monthly Gift**

Defend the right to live free from violence

**Guardian: \$40 Monthly Gift**

Guard the abused and give them a chance to start over

**Friend: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Your choice for a One-Time Gift**

Your financial donations change lives!

Call: **533-5201** for details





### Dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse

#### Mission -

Our mission is to lead the community in the prevention of domestic violence and break the cycle of abuse.

#### Goals -

In order to break the cycle of abuse, we strive to:

1. Provide education to youth in the community on dating and domestic violence.
2. Provide legal advocacy to victims in Laclede, Dallas, Wright, and Texas Counties.
3. Provide a safe haven to victims of domestic and sexual violence.
4. Provide resources to victims of domestic and sexual violence.



**COPE's Board** is a group of people with varied skill sets working together for the good of COPE and its clients



**COPE is the local Shelter and Advocacy center for the following counties:**

Laclede  
Dallas  
Texas  
and  
Wright

**Our shelter operates 24-hours a day and the telephone is answered 7 days a week at:**  
**(417) 533-5201**

**Or Toll Free: 1-877-275-0930**

**Sincerely,  
Your COPE Board of Directors:**

**Carol Roam, President  
Ellen Martin, Vice President  
Debbie Cantrell, Treasurer  
Marilyn Kimbrell, Secretary  
(Monte) Joe Bailey, Member  
Rose Childers, Member  
Bonnie Daniels, Member  
Teresa Esparza, Member  
Katie Heimann, Member  
David Millsap, Member  
Tom O'Neil, Member**

**Judy Kile, Executive Director**

## ***Emergency & Support Services for Women, Men, and Children***

### **Women and Children -**



First and foremost, at COPE, we believe that every life is of value and is worth saving and protecting. With that premise in mind, we are equipped to provide immediate and safe lodging to families escaping violence. 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. Everyone's situation is different: Some stay for the night; some as long as a month. However long they're here, they will find the support they need to break free from the daily threat of oppression and violence.

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.

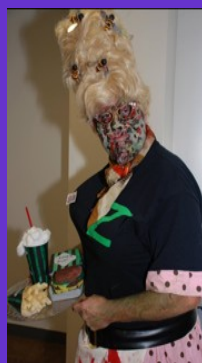
### **Men -**

Women aren't the only ones who face family violence in their lives. Often men are trapped in abusive relationships simply because they won't "fight back" when the abuser is of the opposite sex. They've been taught their entire lives to "man-up". Leaving often makes them feel like a failure. This could not be further from the truth: It takes a much greater man to walk away, than it does to simply stay. Whether the abuse occurs within a marriage, domestic partnership, or dating relationship, we can offer assistance by providing short term, safe housing at one of the local hotels. Men are entitled to the same outreach services as the women who utilize COPE's varied resources.

## **Trivia Night is Coming YOUR Way!!!**

Mark your calendars for October 14 for COPE's 8th Annual Trivia Night fundraiser.

Held at St. Francis DeSales Catholic Church, 345 Grand Ave., from 6-9 with great food provided, six trivia categories, and awards for best table decorations and best costumes.



**Only \$300 for a table of eight people or  
\$40 per person.**

**A great way to have fun, test your skills, and support  
COPE!**