

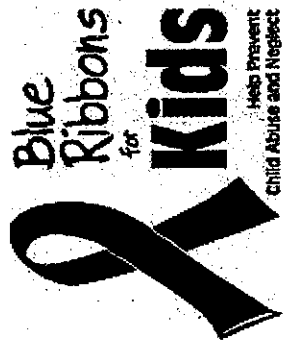
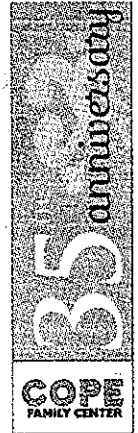


## Cope Family Center Celebrates 35 Years of Helping Napa Families

**Napa's Cope Family Center will celebrate its 35th anniversary** with a Community Open House on September 26th. An invaluable resource for families, Cope's homelike Family Resource Center is housed in a restored downtown Victorian, where parents can get information and support.

Cope Family Center provides Parent Education, Home Visitation, Supervised Visitation, Drop-in and Emergency Aid, and Family Economic Success programs both on-site and throughout Napa County. Cope is the host agency for the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) of Napa County, whose annual Blue Ribbon Campaign every April focuses on various aspects of child abuse and neglect.

From its inception, Cope Family Center has been at the forefront of supporting and educating parents, with the goals of strengthening families and preventing child abuse.



BY MANDY S. PAGE

### Beginnings

In 1972, Napa's Linda Thomas founded Child Abuse Prevention Services (C.A.P.S.), a volunteer-run organization, in response to a Napa infant's death due to child abuse. C.A.P.S. philosophy was that early intervention and assistance during times of personal stress and crisis could help reduce child abuse and neglect.

Trained volunteers manned a 24-hour telephone line, easing parental frustrations by offering a sympathetic ear. Volunteers advised parents and gave them methods to deal with stressful situations in a calm and rational manner. In 1976, C.A.P.S. changed its name to Child or Parent Emergency (C.O.P.E.), in order to remedy the ongoing confusion of C.A.P.S. with Child Protective Services.

During the 1970s, Cope added Parent Aides and Relief Babysitting programs, as well as community outreach, with a Speaker's Bureau and educational films and materials.

Cope grew during the 1980s and '90s, with Executive Director Ardis Troedson introducing PhoneFriend (a children's afterschool support line), Parents & Babies Program and Emergency Aid Fund. Cope addressed the needs of Napa's increasing Spanish-speaking population with bilingual Parent Aides, crisis line staffers and community educators.

Near the end of Troedson's 21-year tenure, Cope was part of a multi-agency collaborative that administered a community-wide grant. The grant allowed Cope to increase the in-home visitation program, hire support staff, and to purchase and begin rehabilitating the Victorian house at the corner of Fourth and Franklin Streets.

### A New Name for a New Era

Following Ardis Troedson's retirement, Joelle Gallagher became Executive Director in 2001. The restored Victorian was dedicated in October 2001, and "The Cope House" became known as a welcoming center for families seeking support and services.

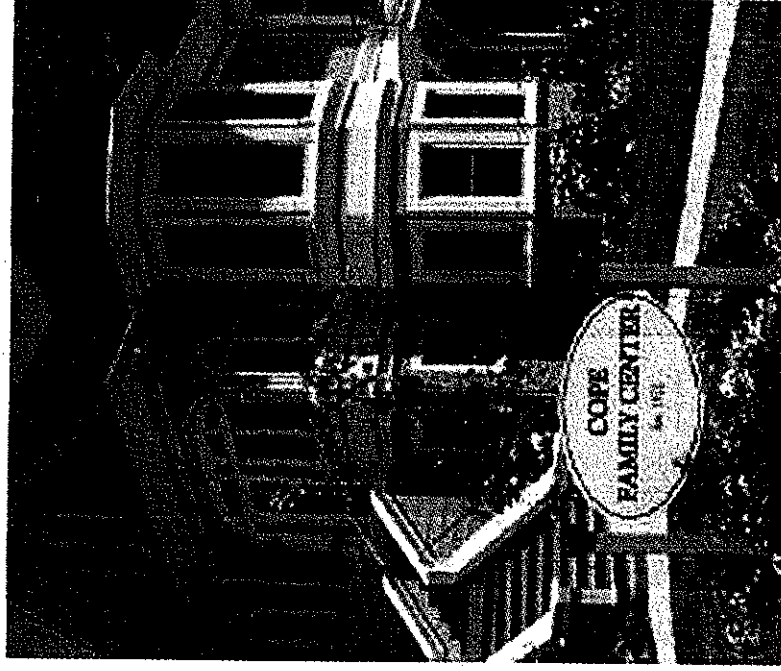
As Cope expanded to offer a comprehensive level of service to families, the agency became Cope Family Center, a

name that reflects its mission to serve not just families in crisis, but also all families raising children. Part of a statewide Family Resource Center (FRC) movement, Cope Family Center has taken a leadership role in establishing other FRCs in Napa County, including Calistoga Family Center, St. Helena Family Resource Center, and American Canyon Family Resource Center.

As Napa has grown, Cope Family Center has continued to innovate and collaborate to meet the needs of the community.

Parent education includes free classes such as Family Rules and Guiding Good Choices, and workshops for blended families and families going through divorce. Many classes are offered in English and Spanish, with free childcare provided. The Cope House offers access to its facilities for parents in need, and the parenting library stocks books and videos in English and Spanish. Today, nearly half of Cope's staff is bilingual.

Cope Family Center offers free, volunteer-assisted tax preparation for qualified families, as well as 2-to-1



## ■ COPE FAMILY CENTER

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

matched savings plans and financial management classes, under the umbrella of its Family Economic Success Program. And as always, Emergency Aid is available, providing diapers, formula and other immediate assistance to families in severe economic straits.

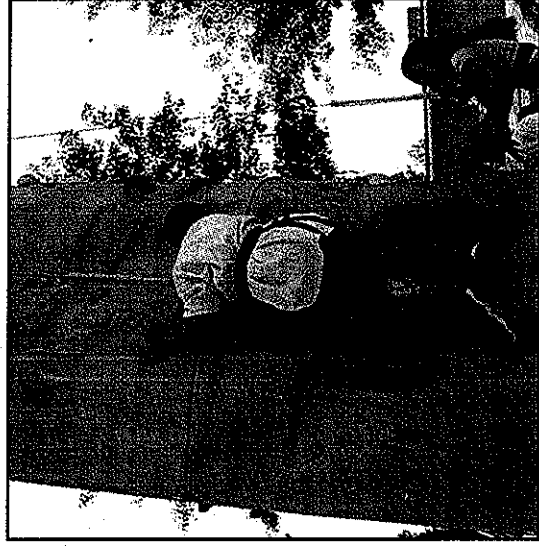
### Importance of Volunteers

Although Cope Family Center is no longer a tiny, volunteer-run grassroots organization, volunteers are still vitally important to Cope's programs. Several Cope employees, including Executive Director Joelle Gallagher, began their association with Cope as volunteers, and continue to volunteer in addition to their regular duties. A volunteer Board of Directors provides strategic and fiduciary oversight of the agency. Volunteers help with clerical work, maintenance and special projects. Events such as the Blue Ribbon Campaign Kickoff, Kids' Day at Cope and The Blue Plate Special require volunteers at every stage, from planning to staffing to cleanup.

Cope Family Center invites you to visit their beautiful center at 1340 Fourth Street at Franklin. They're open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm. If you're interested in making a donation or volunteering, contact Cope at (707) 252-1123, or visit [www.copefamilycenter.org](http://www.copefamilycenter.org) for more information.



## Kids' Day at Cope



The grand finale of Blue Ribbon Month is Kids' Day at Cope. One of Napa's most anticipated downtown fairs, Kids' Day hosts dozens of family activities packed into one joyous block of Fourth Street. More than 30 local agencies and businesses sponsor fun, engaging activities for kids and grown-ups of all ages. Children enjoy the bounce house, rock climbing wall, and Desert Dave's crawly critters, while their parents can learn about organizations and businesses that support families throughout Napa. Come to Kids' Day and do a craft project, explore the Robotic Fire Truck & Fire-Safe House, and enjoy live entertainment with your whole family!

Kids' Day 2007  
Saturday, April 28,  
10:00am - 2:00pm

4th Street between Franklin and Randolph St.

To volunteer, sponsor a table, or make a financial contribution to support Kids' Day, contact Laurie Cole at 252-1123.