

Learning to Cope with tax day

By Kerri Greene-Curtis

April 15, tax day, is looming on my calendar, but my family is happily looking forward to a tax refund that will be deposited into our bank account. Why are we looking forward to getting money back from the federal and state governments? Because we chose to give to a local nonprofit organization last year: Cope Family Center!

Cope is dedicated to supporting parents and nurturing children in Napa County. Cope's services range from infant care and parenting classes to economic savings and tax programs and family emergency funds and supplies. Our family has directly benefited from Cope services and we know many other families that have received services and support.

Our family's giving plan to Cope provides a great tax deduction on yearly income taxes. We also plan to give a portion of our upcoming federal tax rebate to Cope. Congress approved these rebates to encourage Americans to spend money in the flagging economy. We can think of no better investment in our nation and our local community than to provide financial support to Cope and Napa County's kids.

In addition, we have found an easy way to support Cope while doing our spring cleaning! We are donating furniture, home décor, and women's clothing (two years old or newer) to local consignment store Definitely Different. We are making this donation in the name of Cope Family Center so that they will receive all proceeds from the sale of these items. Definitely Different is located at 849 Jackson Street in Napa and can be reached at 252-8015.

We are secure knowing that our donation to Cope has a return-on-investment that far exceeds any bank interest or money-market yield. Research shows that for every \$1 spent in preventing child abuse, \$4 is saved on future service needs. We feel good about giving to Cope because 84 cents of every dollar goes directly to serve local families. We feel important because Cope relies on community support from businesses and individuals for 70 percent of their funding.

We hope that you will read this letter and agree to join us in supporting Cope. Giving is easy and the rewards for Napa families are unlimited. Learn

more about Cope on their Web site at www.copefamilycenter.org. Stop by Cope at 1340 Fourth Street in Napa to see their good work first-hand. For tax deduction purposes, Cope's Federal ID number is 94-2322399.

(Greene-Curtis lives in Napa)

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