

Thanks from Cope, and Susan

Dear editor,

With a generous contribution from Auction Napa Valley, Cope Family Center continues "helping families help themselves." Here's the story of one family.

Susan, a young grandmother, called Cope Family Center, obviously distressed. Her daughter passed away from a sudden heart attack, leaving Susan the sole guardian to her two grandchildren, ages 9 and 2. She was dealing with a significant personal crisis -- the sudden death of her daughter and the reality of raising two young grandchildren with very limited resources. As if this tragedy wasn't enough to handle, just six months earlier she had exhausted all of her financial resources when her house burned down and left the family homeless. Having gone through all her resources relocating and replenishing her household, Susan had no money for funeral expenses, nor the increased costs associated with raising the family with a single income.

Upon receiving Susan's call, Cope sent a home visitor to help the family deal with the urgent crisis at hand. After taking care of their immediate needs for rent and funeral arrangements through the emergency aid program, the home visitor worked with Susan to identify other programs in the community that could help her and her grandchildren through the grieving process and manage day-to-day activities. In addition to helping Susan secure guardianship, Cope's home visitor helped the family enroll in Social Security for the children, providing the grandmother with the income she needed. Through Cope's professional resource-sharing partnership, the entire family received counseling from a private therapist and the children were enrolled in a bereavement program to deal with the loss of their mother.

"It's nice to know that people still help each other during extreme hardships," Susan said. "I will never be able to repay all your kindness and help. Thank you. I will never forget Cope and the people involved"

Thank you ANV. Your partnership allows Cope to continue to bring hope and healing into the lives of families in our community!

If you'd like to be part of the Cope family, or want to learn more, contact us at 252-1123 or visit www.copefamilycenter.org.

Joelle Gallagher, executive director

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