



For Immediate Release
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Cope Family Center growing green to give back!

Cope Family Center, first stop for families, is embarking on a new project to reduce water consumption and develop programming to promote green, sustainable practices among its clients. The Cope Garden Project will replace the organization's current, water hungry lawn and plants with native, drought-resistant plants, an educational vegetable garden, and spaces to for staff, volunteers and clients to enjoy the outdoors.

The Garden Project is the latest phase in Cope's partnership with Sustainable Napa County (SNC), which began in September 2009. After an exhaustive assessment of both the building – a converted Victorian home on Fourth Street – and the staff's practices, SNC made recommendations on property improvements and behavioral habits that Cope should implement. SNC estimates that approximately half of the energy savings Cope will see comes from how efficiently the building and the systems operate; the other half is a direct result of how people who work or live in the building behave.

To date, guided by its Board of Directors and leadership team, Cope has:

- Made building improvements to increase energy-efficiency, lower Cope's carbon footprint and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These improvements are projected to save a minimum of \$2,500 annually on energy bills. This translates to reducing Cope's carbon footprint by 7 tons, or the equivalent of planting 196 trees.
- Received a 20% credit from PG&E for reducing consumption in the first six months of the program.
- Adopted a Board-driven "Green Policy" to guide the agency to incorporate energy conservation and sustainability efforts in future projects and programming.
- Created a staff "Green Team" that oversees an incentive program for staff and clients who incorporate green practices in their daily habits. Goals include reducing energy water consumption, implementing programming on home gardening and community education on sustainable practices.

Executive Director Joelle Gallagher says, "Our experience with this program has been phenomenal. Not only are we showing that we can be good stewards of our organization's funds by reducing our operating expenses and re-directing financial resources from utility bills to clients and services, but we are acting as good stewards of our environment and our community. This program teaches energy efficiency in a way that shows our clients that they can do the same to conserve natural and financial resources."

A committee of dedicated volunteers is overseeing the Garden Project from design to completion and maintenance. Water Wise Women's Mary Hudson and Cheryl Toivola created the garden's design, with input from the committee. Master Gardeners, Eagle Scout candidate Zephyr Barnes, volunteers from Napa CanDO and community members will break ground on the project early this month.

Volunteers are welcome for our first work day in the garden on Saturday, July 10th from 9am to 2pm. Napa CanDo will lead the sheet mulching project and garden clean-up. Coffee, light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Donations of materials and plants are needed as well. For information on how you can get involved or donate to support Cope's Garden Project, please contact Aimee Inglis, Talent Management Coordinator, at 252-1123, x 104. Ongoing needs for materials, volunteers and progress on the project will also be posted on our website and Facebook page.

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Founded in 1972, Cope Family Center is a nonprofit organization devoted to empowering families to create happy, healthy lives for children through child abuse prevention, parent education, family well-being and support services. Housed in a beautifully renovated Victorian, the Center is the first stop for families in Napa, and offers a space for parents and children to interact, connect with other families, learn important parenting and life skills and access a myriad of community services. For a schedule of classes or more information on the services provided, please call or visit www.copfamilycenter.org.