

COPE Center 2007 Capital Campaign

The COPE Center, Inc., has launched a 2007 Capital Campaign to rebuild its main counseling center located at 104 Bloomfield Avenue, in Montclair, which suffered a partial structural collapse last year. The building has been evacuated, and repairs and renovations are underway. During construction, COPE is providing counseling services from two temporary locations Montclair and Verona.

COPE's Board of Trustees has taken several actions to help finance the reconstruction, including selling the satellite building in Verona on a leaseback basis, obtaining special government grants, and collectively pledging over \$90,000; however, over \$500,000 is still needed to complete the project. Valley National Bank is providing interim financing during the construction period.

Peter M. Rooney, president of the COPE Board of Trustees, explains that "Although we are temporarily displaced from our headquarters and main facility, we still have a commitment to provide services to the poor and working poor in our communities and especially our youths at risk." He continues, "Every year, we help hundreds of men, women, and children from every town in Essex County and from surrounding counties as well. This year, it's COPE who needs help to restore its Bloomfield Avenue facility so it is once again suitable for providing quality behavioral health-care services."

To contribute to the COPE Capital Campaign, checks should be made payable to COPE Center, Inc., and mailed to COPE Center, Inc., 94 Park Street, Montclair, NJ 07042.

COPE is a nonprofit agency dedicated to providing quality behavioral health-care services that are affordable, accessible, and responsive to individual, family, and community needs. The letters of COPE's name stand for Counseling, Outreach, Prevention, and Education, all areas in which the agency's professional staff is actively engaged in programs throughout Essex County and surrounding areas, including the centers in Montclair and Verona. Its counselors work in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, family crises, problems in daily living, and AIDS. COPE was started over 30 years ago by the Junior League of Montclair and the United Way of North Essex. Information on any of COPE's programs is available by calling 973-783-6659 or by visiting the agency's Web site, www.copecenter.net.