



## What is COPE?

*A real-world example*

Right now life is uncertain for Katherine and her four young children. As a single mother, the difficult times that most families with limited resources face over the course of many years are hitting her all at once. In addition to receiving no child support, she recently lost her job with no warning when a local business closed resulting in her car being repossessed. Faced with a utility shut-off notice and asking for help for the first time, she requested assistance with the bill.

The OUR Center was able to help Katherine and her children pay their utility bill with funds from the COPE Program, a partnership between the City of Longmont and Outreach United Resources, Inc. (COPE). COPE helps local residents to pay past-due utility bills when all other resources are exhausted. Longmont residents donate to the program, either with a one-time payment or a monthly contribution added to their utility bill.

Katherine said she experienced a “big relief” when the shut-off was prevented. This help has given her a brief respite to develop plans to stabilize her family’s situation.