

Elder Abuse Community Outreach Report

A Program of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee Office on Aging

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Preventing Elder Abuse

Throughout the grant period, we have shared several updates on what we are doing to help respond to instances of elder abuse. These responses have included additional training for law enforcement, social workers, judges, prosecutors, and community members. They have included looking at big picture changes for all older victims including having each of our partners look at their internal responses to these cases for any improvements as well as looking for community solutions such as increasing housing for victims. We have offered direct services to victims through the Office on Aging's case management wing. But all of this work is related to the response of abuse cases. Where does prevention come in?

Our grant rules keeps us from taking a prevention focus. But there are things we can do to prevent elder abuse:

- **Put eyes on people.** Checking in on friends or loved ones to let them know—and others around them—that they are not forgotten.
- **Keep older adults connected.** Do what you can to ensure they are in touch with the community through news, through events, and routines such as church services and senior center visits.
- **Remember social services.** Older adults and their families are not alone in Knoxville. Programs such as the Office on Aging's Daily Living Center or Contact Care Line's Daily Assurance Calls can be a boost to older adults and their families who need help in caring and communicating with their loved ones. Such services can help stop problems before they even start.

JOSEPH'S REFLECTIONS:

This picture is from our kickoff way back in August 2016. I remember the energy of that day. Working with each of you has touched my life in ways I didn't know was possible. Thank you so much for your example. I look forward to finishing out this grant together!



Wrapping Things Up

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of the official grant period. Over the course of 2.5 years, we have made historic gains in our community. More than 500 officers have received this training, and more will continue to do so. We've brought people to the table that weren't there before. We have offered case management services to victims, helping them move on with their lives as survivors. The grant has accomplished many important things. But it has also been just one

part of a much larger communitywide effort that says Knoxville-Knox County will not tolerate elder abuse. As we look to the official close out date of September 30, 2018, there are still some things needing to be accomplished. Some parts of this project—such as case management—will continue beyond this date. Other new, exciting opportunities will come into play as well. Stay tuned for updates on where our office is going from here. Together we can keep making a difference.

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day — June 15

People around the world are recognizing the issue of elder abuse. As such, every year on June 15 in countries around the globe, people take a moment to reflect on a topic that is thought to impact 1 in 10 people age 60 and older. You can participate too.

At the June 14 Council on Aging Meeting at the O'Connor Senior Center, there will be a brief reflection on Elder Abuse Awareness as well as a table with information on identifying, reporting, and responding to abuse and scams. The Council on Aging meeting will begin at 2:30 PM at 611 Winona Street. The featured speaker will be Amelia Crotwell, owner and founder of Elder Law of East Tennessee. Her presentation on legal, financial, and care planning for elders meshes well with the occasion.

There are other ways to get involved in World Elder Abuse Awareness activities:

- The [National Center on Elder Abuse](#) has a hashtag campaign related to raising awareness on this subject.
- The federal [Elder Justice Initiative](#) has a webinar on June 13 that discusses leveraging national resources in the local fight against elder abuse.
- On June 19, Knoxville will host statewide CCR tour discussing a new model for serving older victims.
- Remember you can use the local hashtag, #EndElderAbuseKnox which will tie your post to a larger, local social media discussion.



More NCALL Resources on Elder Abuse

- [Trainer Toolkit](#) for those wanting to train others on elder abuse issues.
- [YouTube Channel](#) with more than 100 related videos
- [Checklist](#) for planning your own Elder Abuse Awareness event.

Are you interested in learning more about Knoxville's elder abuse grant or want to know how you can be involved?

Contact Joseph Winberry,
Elder Abuse Community Outreach Program Manager,
(865) 524-2786 or joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org
www.knoxseniors.org/eacop.html

To report abuse, contact Adult Protective Services at:
1-888-APS-TENN (1-888-277-8366) or [online](#).

Remember, reporting abuse is mandatory under state law!

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