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Elder Abuse: A Global Issue

From Trinidad and Tobago to Mumbai, India ... from Paris, France to Jefferson City, Missouri ... from Tokyo, Japan to Dublin, Ireland, regions around the globe recently hosted conferences and rallies, mounted billboards and distributed literature, sponsored essay contests and held vigils for one purpose: to raise awareness of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect.

In this special NCEA E-News, we circle the planet to highlight observances of the 4th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and international initiatives, beginning on page 2. We also feature happenings throughout the U.S, beginning on page 10.

As we look back on World Day events of the past several years it seems that more and more communities are sharing in the effort to raise awareness of the many forms of elder abuse. While this is good news, it also underscores the reality that older people everywhere continue to be at risk for mistreatment.

Despite these efforts, many older individuals remain unaware of elder abuse, or how to reach out for help. Missouri APS planner and state legal services developer Marta Fontaine learned that many of the senior citizens she talked with recently didn't know of the elder abuse hotline, even though state public awareness efforts have been considerable. With a burgeoning worldwide elder population, and the ongoing strain of economic challenges, it is clearer than ever that World Day must serve as a spring board for continuous activities to enlist public support in the fight against elder abuse.

NCEA's Elder Justice Community Collaborations Project: Request for Proposals

The NCEA is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Elder Justice Community Collaborations project. The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) will administer this project for the NCEA.

The mini-grants supports the development of multidisciplinary coalitions at the local level by providing on-site training and technical assistance to Area Agencies on Aging, Title VI Grantees, and/or community organizations interested in developing new (not currently existing) elder justice coalitions. If a state unit on aging is a single PSA (does not have designated area agencies on aging), they may be considered for a mini-grant under this RFP.

The NCEA will award through a competitive application process 10 elder justice community collaboration mini-grants, each in the amount of \$10,000, dependent on satisfactory completion of the project. Grants will provide seed money to assist organizations in developing new, local multidisciplinary elder justice networks to develop strategies to address detection, intervention, and

prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. NCPEA will administer the grants and application process for the NCEA.

The RFP for the project can be found at NCEA's website at <http://ncea.acl.gov>. The deadline for responding to the RFP is Friday, August 28, 2009, at 5:00pm EST.

For more information, contact Pamela Teaster, Project Director by phone at 859-257-1450 ext. 80196, or E-mail at pteaster@email.uky.edu

My World... Your World... Our World... Free of Elder Abuse: A Report on the Official International Observance of the 4th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

On July 5th, leaders convened at the Palais des Congres in Paris, France, to discuss events and initiatives, progress, obstacles, and the overall state of elder abuse awareness, prevention, and intervention in countries throughout the world. Led by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), the organization that initiated World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, this observance coincided with the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Conference.

The event incorporated the latest technology, so that those who couldn't attend in person could participate virtually via "E-Blast" – an email forum that posted updates throughout the day, and allowed for questions and comments from the remotest parts of the globe. This effort was spearheaded by Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks of the University of Toronto in Canada, who is currently INPEA vice-president. Throughout the day, Yongjie Yon, a Master of Arts Candidate in the Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, Vancouver, Canada, sent out

updates of the conference events. Following are the synopses of the Paris event.

Morning Session

Dear E-Blast Participants,

"Warmest greetings from Palais des Congres, Paris! We have a busy start with the morning session of the 4th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) at 10am. An estimated 130 participants attended the morning and afternoon session and we are very pleased to bring you some of the highlights of this session.

"The session was opened by Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks, WEAAD Founder and Chair, Dr. Lia Daichman, President of INPEA, Madame Francoise Busby, INPEA national representative for France, Dr. Pamela Teaster, President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA). In addition, we have a special greeting message from The Honourable Majory LeBreton, leader of the Canadian Government and Minister of State, who thanked everyone for their efforts 'without your dedication to combating elder abuse this serious issue of elder abuse would still be unaddressed and unrecognized.'

"The session also included a presentation by Dr. Jonathan Drennan on the recent developments on research of elder abuse in **Europe**. In University College, Dublin, **Ireland**, a new National Centre for the Protection of Older People was established to focus on a programme of research examining elder abuse in Ireland which will result in original research outputs contributing to the development of policy and practice in relation to elder abuse. Dr. Drennan gave a tour of his website that provides many valuable information on elder abuse. More information can be found in <http://www.ncpop.ie>.

"Some of the recent developments in Haifa University, **Israel** by Dr. Ariela Lowenstein include

qualitative research on elder abuse, completion of institutional abuse [research] in 24 old age and nursing homes indicating that over half of the participants reported being abused, and evaluation of special units dealing with elder abuse and awareness raising among public and professionals. Screening tools are currently developing and The Elder Abuse Suspicion Index has been validated in Israel. Furthermore, national forum initiated by the Ministry of Social Affairs as well as international conference and workshops were held in Haifa. Lastly, Dr. Lowenstein shared with the participants that financial abuse is not included in Israeli legislation.

“In Protestant University, Ludwigsberg, **Germany**, the Abuse of the Elderly in Europe (ABUEL) is currently underway to examine the prevalence, characteristics and determinants of elder abuse. European data file will be ready at the end of September 2009 and the representative data on prevalence of abuse and neglect in 7 European countries will be available at the end of November 2009. The final data analysis will be available at the end of April 2010. For more information please visit <http://www.abuel.org>

“In **Italy**, preliminary findings from the ABUEL project on the prevalence of elder abuse indicated that close to 12% of the respondents (aged 60-84years) reported psychological abuse, about 3% on Financial abuse and less than 1% for sexual and physical abuse in 2008. Characteristics of the respondents and abusers were discussed at the conference. In addition to the research, there are recent initiatives to prevent elder abuse in Italy including the reduction of waiting lists, legislation to nominate a “support tutor” for people who no longer can take care of themselves and monitoring the effects of heat waves to prevent “neglect-driven” abuse. For more information please contact: g.lamura@inrca.it

“Finally in France, Dr. Robert Moulis from the University of Paris VI and Chair of AMLA **France** shared his work on “The Neglect Syndrome.” He explained that neglect syndrome is very costly for the society that leads to greater dependency, use of emergencies wards and longer hospital stays. He concluded with a number of take home messages: (1) lack of knowledge of the needs of patients with disabling disease leads to worsening of all disabilities therefore training is a vital component of elder abuse intervention; (2) consequences of neglect syndrome are avoidable with better awareness of the needs and dignity older adults.

“Thank you very much. We look forward to hearing your response, comments and questions. “

Afternoon Session

“Dear E-Blast participants,

“After an invigorating lunch provided by ALMA France, some 140 WEAAD participants joined in for the second and afternoon session of the WEAAD. All participants have the great privilege to watch the debut of “Elder Abuse the Video – Around the World in 60 Minutes.” Videos were submitted from eight regions: **North America USA, North America Canada, Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Europe, South Asia** and **East Asia** were represented. These videos were available online and hope everyone has a chance to view it.

“The afternoon session also included Global Snapshots on elder abuse initiatives. Bridge Penhale from the University of Sheffield, **United Kingdom (UK)**, shared the mission of INPEA which is established in IAG World Congress in 1997 to acknowledge the diversity of culture, background and life style of the world population and to increase INPEA’s aims to prevention elder abuse through international collaboration to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people in whatever settings. INPEA has over 50 national

representatives with two directors from each region. It has official funding from **Canada, Japan, Argentina** and **Brazil**.

“From **Japan**, Dr. Toshio Tatara from Shukutoku University shared the Japanese approach to address family violence in establishing national laws, agencies, programs, training workshops for professionals and public education and awareness campaign. Several legislations have been established in the National Diet: Prevention of Child Abuse (2000), Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (2001) and Elder Abuse Prevention and Caregiver Support Law (2005). Dr. Tatara also shared the Japanese ‘Elder Abuse Prevention Social Work Model’ which include features that ensure the safety of older victims, prevention of the re-occurrence of elder abuse, providing caregivers support to ease caregiver burden and setting up multi-disciplinary teams of professionals on elder abuse prevention.

“On the international level, Dr. Patricia Brownell, INPEA UN representative, and Susan Somers, INPEA Secretary, presented the elder abuse prevention initiatives in New York which include ‘World View on Elder Abuse: Environmental Scan – Final Research Results and Implications for Global Policy and Practice,’ ‘Combating Ageism in the Workplace,’ ‘Promoting Elder Abuse as a Social Issue in Israel’ as well as the special program held at the UN Church Center in 2006 on ‘The Invisibility of Abused Elderly Men: An International Perspective.’

“In **North America**, Dr. Toni Antonucci from University of Michigan, USA, presented her research on the recent elder abuse prevalence estimates with 9% of respondents reporting verbal abuse, 3.5% financial exploitation and .02% physical abuse by family members. Dr. Antonucci concludes that elder abuse research is very active in North America especially during this time of financial crises.

“From Africa, Isabella Aboderin from University of Oxford, **UK**, presented her work entitled ‘Understanding and Addressing Elder Abuse in sub-Saharan **Africa** (SSA) Status and Challenges.’ Isabella found that there is limited public awareness or discourse on elder abuse in Africa. Examples of age discrimination such as lack of access to facilities, health care and humanitarian emergency responses are common among older adults. Furthermore, many older African women are accused of witchcraft. Suggestions are made to increase support for elder abuse prevention in Africa including consolidating network between active INPEA chapters, systematic research to develop conceptual framework and typology of elder abuse at family, community and societal levels and finally, coordinated advocacy to address elder abuse.

“The afternoon session ends with interactive dialogue from participants at WEAAD Paris and a message from Dr. John Beard, director of WHO Ageing and Life Course. WEAAD Paris concluded with a reception from the Ontario (Canada) Seniors’ Secretariat and a presentation of the International Rosalie S. Wolf Award.

“We hope through these reports we are able to bring a little bit of WEAAD Paris to you. Thank you very much for your participation we look forward to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,
Yongjie Yon”

All presentations have been uploaded to the WEAAD website at:

<http://sites.google.com/a/nicenet.ca/weaad2009/presentations-3>

The Virtual Experience

After the conference, Dr. Podnieks reported to NCEA on the success and hiccups of the virtual

interaction. The estimate is that the E-Blast went to over 250 email addresses in regions including **North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia**. There were 28 written responses received, mostly from North America, but also from **Ghana** and **South Africa**.

“Many expressed the sentiment, ‘Thank you so much for keeping us in the picture.’ This was very heart warming. There was a sense of connection that has not been there before,” said Dr. Podnieks.

She noted several main challenges that were not surprising:

- To piggy-back with the gerontology conference, the E-Blast took place on a Sunday;
- The time differences made it very difficult for some to participate;
- Several technical problems were experienced with the internet connection at the Palais de
- Congres and with the email server.

Nonetheless, Dr. Podnieks concluded, “Despite these issues, it was an exciting journey from start to finish. There was wonderful support and encouragement for the concept, especially those who wrote in and described their sense of inclusion in World Day, which is what we hoped for.”

Dr. Podnieks expressed her gratitude to NCEA and NAPSA for promoting the E-Blast through their networks.

Special thanks to Dr. Podnieks and Yongjie Yon for submitting these updates.

A Sampler of International World Day Activities

This year, many communities around the world demonstrated just how international World Elder Abuse Awareness Day really is. This article features the 2009 World Day events we learned of on the

INPEA web site, in newspapers, and from our “foreign correspondents.” Please read on to see what events took place internationally. Special thanks to Malia Gilbert of the University of Delaware School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy for contributing to this compilation of international perspectives.

INPEA Reports

The INPEA website features full reports, photographs, and detailed event descriptions for World Day activities in the regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania. Here is just a sample of the unique events that took place this year. To read more and view photos of these and other events, visit the INPEA web site at: <http://www.inpea.net/weaad2009reports.html>.

Kenya

Over 2,000 citizens including older women and men, youth leaders, and other community members, congregated at Nyansakia Primary School Grounds, near the Marani Division of Kisii Central District. The observance began as young and old stood together and planted trees as a symbol of intergenerational unity and a pledge to speak out against abuse. The celebration including an array of entertainment in which attendees participated, including cohesion-building dances.

South Africa

Through the support and structure of Age-in-Action, over 10,000 older people participated in educational seminars, peaceful demonstrations, and other exhibitions in recognition of World Day.

Korea

The first Korea-Japan Roundtable on Elder Abuse was held in Busan, Korea on June 7th at the Busan Metropolitan City Hall. In the public event, Dr. Dong Hee Han, the president of the Korea

Information Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (KINPEA), Dr. Young-Sei Park, and Dr. Toshio Tatara, on behalf of INPEA, were among the featured presenters. They were joined by two elders who read the Korean Declaration of Human Rights of the Elderly. The roundtable allowed researchers the opportunity explore collaborative projects that would benefit both countries.

Serbia

The Red Cross of Serbia and the HumanS network also organized a roundtable discussion on the awareness of elder abuse among older people. Norwegian psychiatrist Wenche Malmedal discussed the issue of inadequate care in Norwegian retirement institutions, and representatives of the Serbian Centre for Social Welfare described protocols and responsibilities of health professionals concerning elder abuse.

Brasil

Events were held throughout the country to recognize World Day this year: Ceará, Mato Grosso do Sul, Florianópolis, Espírito Santo, Pernambuco, Juiz de Fora, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Joinville, Brasilia. In addition, the elder rights document from the National Council of Older Persons, Nota CNDI, was disseminated to over 5,000 elders.

Australia

Seniors Rights Victoria sponsored a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Workshop with over 100 attendees representing government, service providers, community-based organizations, and other agencies.

News Reports

Trinidad and Tobago

A World Day event was held at the Shanghai Experience restaurant at MovieTowne, Invaders

Bay, Mucurapo. Featured speakers included Social Development Minister Dr. Amery Browne and Dr. Carol Boyd-Scobie, United Nations Resident Representative for the Pan American Health Organisation and the World Health Organisation. The Minister announced that the Division of Ageing has embarked on a campaign to raise awareness.

United Kingdom

At the Elms Care Home in Louth, the residents and staff wore purple, and held purple balloon races. The event raised funds to support public awareness efforts in the community. In Wales, the Carephilly Council's Protection of Vulnerable Adults Team held an informational session at Blackwood Methodist Church Hall.

"Foreign Correspondents" Reports

Canada

Campaign: Elder Abuse – It's Time to Face Reality

In tandem with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Honorable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and the Honorable Marjory LeBreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State have announced the launch of a national awareness campaign on elder abuse in Canada. The advertising campaign, entitled "Elder Abuse - It's Time to Face the Reality," will run from June 15th to early July 2009, then again later in the year. The campaign features messages that will raise consciousness of varying forms of elder abuse, including physical, financial, psychological, and sexual abuses.

In tandem, the Canadian government issued the Federal Elder Abuse Initiative request for proposals (RFP). The RFP was open June 15, 2009 to July 24, 2009, and allowed professional associations to seek funding to aid in developing and distributing elder abuse related materials. With assistance from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, 10 national and

Quebec professional associations will be granted funding.

"As a society that honours its seniors, we cannot and must not tolerate elder abuse," said Minister LeBreton. "That is why our government is collaborating with provinces and territories, professional associations and non-governmental organizations to combat elder abuse and ensure that the quality of life of seniors is not diminished by abuse of any kind."

For more information on the Government of Canada's Elder Abuse initiatives visit: <http://seniors.gc.ca>, or contact 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232). For teletypewriters (TTY), call 1-800-926-9105. Special Thanks to Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks for submitting this information.

NICE Elder Abuse Team: Knowledge to Action

According to Anthony Lombardo, NICE Network Manager, the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE) is "an international knowledge transfer network of researchers, practitioners, students, and seniors dedicated to improving the care of older adults on a global scale. Elder abuse is a priority area for NICE," says Mr. Lombardi, and they "have been pleased to help support World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008 and 2009."

The latest project, 'NICE Elder Abuse Team: Knowledge to Action,' is a three year project that will:

- Develop tools for detection, intervention, and prevention of elder abuse, and
- Engage senior's as "Regional Coordinators" to conduct community elder abuse awareness presentations.

The project is funded by the New Horizons For Seniors Program (Human Resources and Skills Development Canada) and by generous, in-kind

donations of partner organizations and institutions.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nicenet.ca> .

India

The Silver Inning Foundation, an organization dedicated to senior citizens and their family members, commemorated World Elder Abuse Awareness Week from June 13th through the 19th. A series of events were hosted to create awareness and to sensitize the government and the public to eliminate elder abuse at both micro and macro level. The organization networked with groups working with elderly in Mumbai and all over India.

Events included the following:

- Essay Competition - "Elder Abuse: Role of Civil Society and Government " with the results to be posted online;
- Program of Poster Making ,Slogan Writing, and Presentation (East, Mumbai);
- Public forums by Amruta Lovekar and Silesh Mishra on Elder Abuse at Mahakali Senior Citizens Association, Andheri East, Mumbai and at the Nerul Navi, Mumbai, including discussion of relevant laws;
- Tying of 'Purple Security Bands' at various sites throughout the country;
- Launch of Legal Advice cell for Elderly Women with regard to Matrimonial Issues in association with Majlis, an nongovernmental organization that provides litigation support and legal counseling to women.

Additional aid for the week's events came from Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF) and "Little Things Matter Initiatives" (LTMI), Mahakali Senior Citizens Association, Apne Aap, ARDSI Greater Mumbai Cosmopolitan School and AISCON (All India Senior Citizens' Confederation).

More information on Silver Innings and related initiatives is available at:

<http://silverinnings.com/primary%20individual%20form.asp>.

Special thanks to Sailesh Mishra Founder President of the Silver Inning Foundation and Dr. Padmanabha Vyasamoorthy for submitting this information.

Japan

“[Japan’s 4th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day] ... was sponsored jointly by the Japanese Country Committee INPEA and the Japan Academy for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (JAPEA) at the Tokyo Metropolitan University Akihabara Satellite Campus in Tokyo. The program consisted of a workshop, "Course on the Peaceful Living in an Advanced Age: To Live Like the Way I am Proud of," presented by Koji Yamaguchi, Associate Professor of Shukutoku University College of International Communications in Saitama, Japan, as well as the keynote lecture, "Some Issues in the Handling of Elder Abuse Cases: Perspectives of a Lawyer," by Koichiro Ohishi, Esq. The Kinoshita/Ohishi Legal Firm in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Noriko Tsukada, Chair for the Japanese Country Committee of INPEA, reported during the event that a total of 57 people were present the largest attendance ever in the program of the WEAAD event in Tokyo, Japan, and we were delighted with the success of this year's event.

“The good result of this year's event can be explained largely by the "good program" that we were able to offer. For example, Prof. Ymaguchi (who was assisted in the program by Ms. Nobuko Sakata of Toyo University in Tokyo, Japan) is a seasoned trainer in elder abuse who specializes in the teaching of an "elder empowerment approach." He is known particularly well by workers, as well as trainers in the Tokyo Metropolitan area. Additionally, Mr. Ohishi is a reputed public interest attorney in Tokyo, who

became well known throughout the country last year when he, along with his colleagues, won a physical restraint appeal case at the Nagoya Appeals Court, which had reversed the lower court's decision, on behalf of an older woman, who unfortunately was unable to hear the news of her legal victory as she had passed away some years back. In any event, we were happy that the people appeared well contented with our program on that day.”

Special thanks to Dr. Toshio Tatara for submitting this information.

Greece

Kallirroi Nikoli, Vice President of Social Aid of Hellas and member of the Greek National Committee of Ageing provided the following synopsis of aging issues in Greece related to elder abuse.

Mr. Nikoli reports that the percentage of Greek people above 65 years is rapidly increasing. Also, in mortality rates dropped in 2007, with life expectancy at birth of 77.61 years for males and 81.42 years for females.

Mr. Nikoli says that the Greek family dynamics began to shift in the 1950’s, and family units began to split. Mr. Nikoli believes these changes, where older people began to be alone and solely responsible for caring for their own needs, have contributed to increased violence and abuse in older people.

To respond to this increased violence and abuse, the Greek Parliament has enacted eight laws focused on the needs and the safety of “Old Greek People and also promoting their social participation for a Society of All Ages.” Mr. Nikloi goes on to say that despite these laws, the “abuse is increasing in numbers and in brutality” and he noted that neglect is the most common form of abuse, but that is less mentioned.

International Perspectives on Elder Abuse: Internet Resources

In addition to the myriad country and regional reports available on the INPEA website, other internet resources of that provide international perspectives on elder abuse and related issues include the following:

- *A Global Response to Elder Abuse And Neglect: Building Primary Health Care Capacity to Deal with the Problem Worldwide*

As quoted from the report: "WHO/ALC and CIG-UNIGE, with partners from all continents, conducted this study in order to develop a strategy to prevent elder abuse within the primary health care context. The study consisted of a qualitative research project in eight participating countries focused on testing questions originally devised by researchers in Montreal. These questions were aimed at raising awareness among health professionals of the issue of elder abuse."

http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/ELDER_DocAugust08.pdf

- *NCEA E-News Volume 10 Number 8 June 2008: Special International Issue Featuring Initiatives and Research from Contributors throughout The World, on the NCEA E-News Archives page at:*
http://www.ncea.acl.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/Resources/Newsletter/Newsletter_Archive.aspx

- *"Missing Voices: Views of Older Persons on Elder Abuse"*

International report produced by the World Health Organization and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, online at:
http://www.who.int/ageing/projects/elder_abuse/missing_voices/en/

- *Elder Abuse: International and Cultural Perspectives - An Update of the Literature (June 2006)*

CANE Annotated Bibliography online at:
http://www.ncea.acl.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/Library/CANE/CANE_Series/CANE_International060614.aspx

- *Elder Abuse: A Global Issue (July 2002)*

CANE Annotated Bibliography online at:
http://www.ncea.acl.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/Library/CANE/CANE_Series/CANE_global.aspx

- *Global Action on Ageing*
<http://www.globalaging.org/>

- *HelpAge International*
<http://www.helpage.org/Home>

- *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002*
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/madrid_intl_planaction.html

World Day Observances Across the U.S.

The 4th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was observed across the country through a variety of vehicles allowing personal expression, promoting practical prevention strategies and professional training, and ranging in scope from one-to-one exchanges to grand, colorful – and even humorous – events.

Beyond these formal events, many states, cities, and townships sponsored proclamations and resolutions recognizing the all too often overshadowed issue. Scores of state and local officials promoted the message to wear purple to raise awareness and demonstrate visible solidarity. Numerous articles on World Day and elder abuse in

general appeared in small community newspapers as well as major metropolitan publications and on blogs. Representatives from the elder abuse prevention network were seen and heard on television and radio broadcasts throughout the nation.

Here are many highlights of U.S. World Day events in 23 states, including those reported in earlier E-News editions. If we missed your community's happening, please let us know by emailing ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov . Special thanks to those who have contributed information and updates over the past several months.

Alabama

Doris Ball, Director of APS in Alabama, reported a spike in reports following the extensive menu of public awareness activities sponsored throughout the state recently. World Day activities culminated in the Elder Abuse Rally held at the Capitol in Montgomery (see the June E-News for details), but initiatives also took place in the following counties: Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Chilton, Colbert, Covington, Dallas, Etowah, Dale, Franklin, Geneva, Houston, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lee, Lowndes, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Mobile, Montgomery, Pike, Russell, Tuscaloosa, and Washington.

Purple ribbons were distributed throughout many regions, and in many areas purple bows symbolically decorated public buildings, such as county offices, nursing homes, and senior centers. Dallas county conducted a "mail out" campaign to physicians, hospitals, and churches, while Etowah county and the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission sponsored a Fraud and Abuse Summit. Proclamations were signed by the Governor, mayors, and judges, and there was an influx of newspaper coverage throughout the region. APS staff were busy attending public forums, appearing on television broadcasts, and

participating in radio interviews throughout the state.

State aging services professionals note that there are signs of forward progress in addressing elder rights. As indicators, they point to the recent piloting of elder advocacy centers in Huntsville, Alexander City, and Mobile that are modeled after the state's child advocacy centers.

To view the colorful photos of the Elder Abuse Rally, visit:

<http://www.adss.state.al.us/media/photos/webGallery/index.html> .

Arizona

In addition to the "Break the Silence" event held annually and the Student Arts Competition that launched this year (see the April and May 2009 NCEA E-News) , Arizona also expanded an existing domestic violence awareness program to include elder abuse. Through the Attorney General's office, the state participates in the national "Cut it Out" program, an effort to enlist hair stylists and cosmetologists to recognize signs and symptoms of abuse and violence and to refer clients to local resources for help. "Cut it Out" is a program of the Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund. For more information on the "Cut it Out Program," go to: <http://www.cutitout.org/>.

The Prevent Elder Abuse Coalition, a recent recipient of an NCEA mini-grant for community elder justice projects, sponsored "The Many Faces of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation" workshop for caregivers in the Yavapai County region. SEACUS (Southeast Arizona Community Unique Services) presented an Elder Abuse Prevention Workshop at the Graham County General Services Building in Safford. Sessions centered on long range prevention planning for professionals and the public, and included the following: "Fraud and Identity Theft" by John Griffin (Safford Chief of

Police); “The Subtleties of Financial Exploitation” by Ron Williams (Regional APS Director) and Don Doctors (Wells Fargo Banks); “How Your Bank Can Help” by Tami Evans (Branch Manager of National Bank); “Introduction to Long Term Care” by Royce Hunt (Program Manager of SEACUS); “Long Term Care Benefits Available Through VA” by Valarie Williams (Veterans Administration); and “Legal Issues Surrounding Aging” by Bruce Martin (Attorney for Bogutz and Gordon).

The Pima Council on Aging also hosted a forum on elder abuse awareness at the Armory Park Senior Center. Topics include foreclosure fraud, payday loans, reverse-mortgage scams and nursing-home rights. Representatives from the fraud and victim resource center at the Arizona Attorney General's Office were available to answer questions, along with members of the Pima Council on Aging Elder Rights and Benefits Assistance & Ombudsman Services; Southern Arizona Legal Aid; and the Pima County Law Enforcement Elder Abuse Task Force.

California

APS supervisor Margarita Towe and director Paul Rozelle submitted the following update on Kern County's 12th Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference held in Bakersfield in May to coincide with Older Americans' Month and the region's Elder Abuse Awareness Week. The topic was Domestic Violence in Later Life, featuring keynote address by researcher, educator, and consultant, Lisa Nerenberg, MSW, MPH. Additional guests included Mr. Rozell, Program Director of Protective Services, and Sandy Morris, Bakersfield Police Department. The conference was sponsored by Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department, Kern County Mental Health Department, Domestic Violence Advisory Council, Kern County Commission on Aging, and Community Partners. Presentations included the following: Domestic Violence Cycle; Domestic Violence Grown Old; Late Onset of Domestic Violence (new relationships);

Retaliation Domestic Violence; Elder Abuse by Family Members; Power and Control (threats, physical-sexual abuse, abuse by neglect, misuse of privilege, ridicule, financial exploitation, isolation); LGBT Domestic Violence in Older Adults; and Community Resources. A Senior Adult Victim Panel was also featured.

Connecticut

The Center for Elder Abuse Prevention based at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield hosted a World Day conference for community leaders. The event was attended by Fairfield First Selectman Kenneth Flatto, who praised the work of the Center as well as that of Coalition for the Advocacy, Prevention, and Elimination of Older Adult Abuse (CAPE). During the event, Marie Allen, executive director of the Southwestern Area Agency on Aging, discussed estimates of elder abuse and reported that Connecticut has the highest rate of reported cases across the nation.

The forum, “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: The Reality of Later Life Abuse” was sponsored by the Elder Response Team and presented at the Orange Senior Center. Dr. Gerard Kerins, M.D., F.A.C.P., Section Chief of Geriatric Medicine at the Hospital of St. Raphael was the featured speaker on causes of elder abuse. Breakout sessions included “Elderly Protective Services;” “The Law and Older Adults;” and “Substance Abuse and Seniors.”

Delaware

The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services created several public awareness tools to in recognition of World Day. According to Adult Protective Services Administrator Pamela Williams, 12 elder abuse prevention billboards were mounted throughout the state's three counties emphasizing that abuse hurts no matter the age of the victim. The billboards were mounted for four

weeks. Two posters have were also created to highlight World Day based on INPEA templates, including a call for action to wear purple in recognition of the day.

In addition, the Division of Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and the Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly, based at the University of Delaware co-sponsored a second Dine Out Against Elder Abuse. The event has expanded to include multiple restaurants throughout New Castle County, including Grotto's Pizza, Soffrito's, and Lamberti's Cucina. Participating eateries donated a portion of the receipts to support elder abuse outreach efforts.

Florida

In addition to the state proclamation by Governor Charlie Crist, Mary Ann T. Green of The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Naples submitted the following report on the Elder Abuse Response Program and World Day events:

"This year, The Shelter's WEAAD activities actually began on June 10th when Naples Mayor Bill Barnett and the Collier County Commissioners declared June 10-15th 'Elder Abuse Awareness Week.' Throughout the week, The Shelter's Elder Abuse Advocate Vickijo Letchworth encouraged staff, volunteers and program participants to wear purple ribbons to raise awareness about elder abuse; represented The Shelter and the Elder Abuse program at local meetings; and discussed the WEAAD event during her regularly scheduled Wise Women Support Groups.

"The activities culminated on June 15th with an Elder Abuse Awareness Event held at the East Naples Community Center. This event featured a brief presentation by Letchworth, as well as an empowering video detailing the life-transforming stories of two elders who overcame their abuse to regain power and control over their own lives.

"In addition to this poignant presentation, the hour-long event featured educational booths hosted by the following organizations: Area Agency on Aging; AVOW Hospice; Burzynski Elder Law; Collier County Council on Aging; Collier County Public Library; Homewood Residence; Naples Lighthouse For the Blind; Services for Seniors Housing and Human Services Department, Collier County Government; Volunteer Collier; Seniors And Law Enforcement Together (SALT)/Files of Life; and The Shelter."

For more information on The Shelter's Elder Abuse Response Program which is underwritten by The Brookdale Foundation Group, please call 239-775-3862, ext. 242.

In the Gulfport region, the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc. sponsored a Crime Awareness Forum for Senior Citizens hosted by the Gulfport Senior Center. A multidisciplinary panel of professionals working to protect older individuals from fraud and exploitation were on hand to discuss related issues and disseminate information on how to prevent victimization.

Georgia

The Brunswick Shrine Club in Brunswick, Georgia, was the site of a unique and successful "Shred-a-thon." Sponsored by the Coastal Alliance for the Protection of Elders (CAPE) and Confidential Material Management, seniors first learned prevention strategies to ward off identify theft. The Shred-a-thon, broadcast over radio on Magic 105.9, was free for participants up through the first 20 pounds of paper, and cost 16 cents per pound exceeding this mark. The Meals on Wheels Program was the recipient of the proceeds.

Following was a Fraud Fashion Show for the benefit of senior center volunteers, then lunch and several games of FRAUD bingo. The Fraud Fashion Show featured model representatives from various

agencies, who showed off their uniforms and pieces of identification to humorously demonstrate the visual differences between legitimate law enforcement and other officials, and those used by impersonating criminals. Organizers report that the participants enjoyed the modeling opportunity, and the viewers greatly enjoyed the show.

Kentucky

As part of the statewide Elder Abuse Awareness Month, a rally took place in Frankfort, Kentucky, on May 15, 2009 and a number of awards were given to champions of elder abuse awareness. Individuals granted recognition are as follows: Sandra Halter, Outstanding APS Award; state detective Jerry Jones, Outstanding Law Enforcement Award; commonwealth's attorney David Hargrove, Outstanding Prosecutor Award; nursing home volunteer Kay Gunderson, Outstanding Volunteer Award; and Dr. Wilson Wong, Visionary Leadership Award. Over the years, Dr. Wong, in particular, has devoted a tremendous amount of time to spreading elder abuse awareness among citizens and public agency representatives.

In addition to these recipients, leaders of the Local Coordinating Councils on Elder Abuse (LCCEAs) – which, collectively, address awareness and assist in prevention in 116 of the state's 120 counties – were honored. Thanks to its efforts to reduce elder abuse over its designated nine counties, the Pennyriple Elder Abuse Council was awarded the Public Awareness Initiative Award.

Louisiana

Ralph O'Neil, Chairman of the St. Tammany SALT Council submitted information on its World Day conference, "Make the Call," held at the North Shore Harbor Center in Slidell, Louisiana:

"We are really pleased to have Paul Greenwood as our lead speaker! And the rest of the line-up is

really impressive also: Harold Bartholomew is Paul's counter-part here in St. Tammany Parish. He is as committed and dynamic as any advocate in the country. We also have the past and current directors of Elderly Protective Services as speakers, and the EA trainer for the local HCA hospital that has an excellent reputation and working arrangement with the local Elderly Protective Services office." In addition, two public forums were held during the week of June 15th.

Massachusetts

As part of the Mass Home Care 26th Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with World Day, House Ways and Means Chairman Charles Murphy, (Democrat- Burlington) was honored with the organization's "No Care Like Home Care" award for his ongoing efforts to promote the independence of older residents and to extend their capacity to remain in their own homes.

"We're especially pleased to have Representative Murphy receive this award," said Joan Butler, the Executive Director of Minuteman Senior Services, and a member of the Mass Home Care Association. "His work protected our protective services program, and restored most of the funding for home care." The event also featured moving testimony from an elderly woman who had been physically abused by family members, and a presentation by Robert Blancato, chair of the Elder Justice Coalition.

Elsewhere, Bristol Elder Services, representing nearly two dozen South Coast communities, also featured a panel with guest speaker Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter. Police chiefs in attendance were given a handy tool for their officers: a portable list of relevant state statutes addressing elder mistreatment and felony assault crimes along with community resource numbers. Earlier in June, the Council on Aging presented the first of a series of public information forums on

elder abuse in Attleboro, which was attended by over one hundred participants.

During the morning rush hour, the Rockport Police Department and the Rockport Council on Aging sponsored a “Show You Care” event. Residents, patrolmen, seniors, and others stood in solidarity at Five Corners in the heart of the town with placards and banners to make a visible statement in support of the cause.

Michigan

In Howell, Michigan, Elder Abuse International Day of Awareness was sponsored by the S.A.V.E. Task Force (Serving Adults who are Vulnerable and/or Elderly). Held at the Opera House, the event included a welcome from the Livingston County Sheriff and a presentation on identity theft followed by a walk through downtown Howell and a tour of the Opera House. Livingston County 9-1-1 representatives were on hand to distribute literature and to explain the 9-1-1 process. A Mini Self-Defense class was also provided.

Minnesota

Elder rights advocate Kevin Hansen reported that the Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life, The ElderCare Rights Alliance, The William Mitchell College of Law Center for Elder Justice and Policy, and the Alzheimer’s Association (MN/ND), and other state and community organizations hosted “Building Community Partnerships.” The conference was held at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. The event was intended to share multidisciplinary insights and enhance coordinated approaches to address elder abuse. The Vulnerable Adult Justice Project was featured along with other topics.

Missouri

APS and legal services representatives distributed purple ribbons and posters at various senior centers, aging services program sites, and other venues as they talked with older citizens about elder abuse awareness, prevention, and local resources. Director of Health and Senior Services Margaret Donnelly urged all department members as well as residents to wear purple in observance of the day.

Montana

In Great Falls, the 2nd Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Forum was held at The Rainbow Retirement Community. Seniors attended presentations by law enforcement, local judges, prosecutors, and city commissioners. Vendors of products and services to enhance senior safety, independence, and well-being were also on hand.

New York

Denise Shukoff of the New York State Coalition on Elder Abuse provided information on the following state events:

In Dutchess County, a lunchtime forum entitled “Bringing Together Professionals and The Public to Address Elder Abuse in Our Community” was held at the Family Partnership Cafeteria, Mediation Center in Poughkeepsie. Professionals working with older individuals and their families shared their expertise, and held a discussion to generate public involvement.

The Finger Lakes Elder Abuse Coalition (a collaboration of Cayuga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties) provided media interviews and published Letters to the Editors in eleven media outlets throughout the region.

The Syracuse Area Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition's Elder Abuse Committee in Onondaga County sponsored a community event entitled "Abuse Hurts at Any Age." The presentation was held at the Salvation Army Adult Day Center in Syracuse and covered topics relevant to the region, including recent changes in power of attorney law and community resources.

Earlier events included the New York City Elder Abuse Conference - "Safety in a Storm: Identification and Prevention of Elder Abuse" held at the New School in early June. According to Mara Schechter, Queens District Director of Elder Abuse Programs out of Rego Park, the conference annually brings together experts in gerontology and advocates for the elderly. This year, presentations promoted health and wellness-focused prevention and intervention strategies for elder abuse in the context of the current economic climate. The conference was sponsored by: JASA, The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention; The Hebrew Home at Riverdale, The New School University, Fordham University, The City of New York's Department for the Aging, The Human Resources Administration-Adult Protective Services, The Carter Burden Center on Aging.

On June 10th, Irene Masiello read from her autobiographical, interactive book: *Paradise Costs - A Victim's Daughter Fights Back Against Elder Abuse*, with an afterword by Bennett Blum, MD. The reading took place at the Integrative Healing Center in Manhasset.

North Dakota

The West Central Vulnerable Adults Coalition sponsored a "Shred-a-thon" at the Bismarck Senior Center as part of its World Elder Abuse Awareness Day activities. Staff members from the State Attorney General Consumer Protection Unit were on hand to assist seniors in distinguishing

documents that were no longer necessary to keep on file and shredding them. Participants were reminded that even ordinary documents, such as old phone bills, contain information that increases risk for identify theft. Participants were also urged to invest in personal shredder as a simple means of prevention.

The coalition was created last year with community elder justice funding from the NCEA (for information on the current mini-grant solicitation see the front page of this issue.) The multidisciplinary coalition is expanding initiatives to address elder abuse in Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux counties. According to co-chair and aging services administrator, Cherry Schmidt, current goals include closer collaboration with law enforcement, establishing a speakers bureau, identifying emergency housing options, and creating and delivering training to the public and professionals. Efforts are also being developed to engage sentinels, such as utility and postal workers who are in the community daily and thus have a tremendous vantage point to spot suspected mistreatment and report it.

Ohio

A multidisciplinary conference, "Beyond the Looking Glass: Reflections of Adult Abuse Interventions & Strategies," was presented by The Consortium Against Adult Abuse. The event took place at Corporate College East, a Division of Cuyahoga Community College in Warrensville Heights. The conference was intended "to acquaint the audience with key developments in the field of elder abuse/neglect/exploitation prevention including: the rising number of frail elders living in the community and the challenges it poses; an increased understanding of the 'psychology of victimization,' including the role of undue influence and cognitive impairments in heightening risk, and

the heightened role of community agencies and other legal systems in addressing these problems."

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Securities Commission reinforced the national partnership of the North America Securities Administration Association and the National Adult Protective Services Association by drafting a resolution in support of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The Commission is urging Pennsylvania residents to report elder abuse, and encouraging seniors to utilize the tools and resources available on their website to promote prevention. Visit the web site at: <http://www.psc.state.pa.us/>.

Tennessee

Aging and protective services representatives in Tennessee hosted an ambitious slate of events throughout the state (see NCEA E-News April and May issues). As Commission on Aging and Disabilities staff attorney, Janet Lamb, reported earlier, the goal was to sponsor World Day events in all 95 counties. Memphis and Shelby Counties combined to host an information session at the Central Hooks Library, and Greenville sponsored a picnic. The TRIAD / S.A.L.T. Council in Elizabethton observed World Day by hosting an educational meeting at the Elizabethton Carter County Senior Citizens Center. Ombudsman Marchell A. Gardner, reported that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging and Disability hosted an annual elder abuse conference for the Northwest Tennessee 9 county area.

In Nashville, Channel 4 anchorwoman Jennifer Johnson hosted World Day activities and shared her own family experience of elder financial exploitation at the Knowles FiftyForward Senior Center. She was joined by "Purple Man," the distinguished personification of elder abuse

awareness resplendent in a purple pinstriped suit, purple spats, matching hat, and walking stick. The event focused on proactive strategies to protect seniors as Metro Police Sergeant Suzanne Stephenson discussed crime prevention tips and Consumer Affairs Director Mary Clement spoke of frauds, scams, and exploitation. For more details and to view the colorful photos of the event, go to: <http://www.tvaonline.org/index.php?page=500>.

Texas

East Texas Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse sponsored its first educational seminar at Prestige Estates, and assisted living community in Smith County. The event included speakers Greer Smith, a geriatric care nurse, who spoke of the difficulty addressing self-neglect, and Officer James McCraw of the Tyler Police Department's Community Response Unit who discussed financial scams and exploitation. The panel illustrated real life scenarios of mistreatment and provided practical prevention tips as well as guidance for reporting suspected mistreatment.

A highlight of the seminar was the viewing of "Safeguarding Our Seniors: Recognizing and Reporting Elder Abuse." The video told the story of "Jobe," an older man whose life has become increasingly isolated since his wife was placed in a nursing home. As a result, Jobe has difficulty caring for himself and his home properly. In addition, City Councilman Donald Sanders and County Commissioner Bill McGinnis were also on hand to read mayoral proclamations.

In San Antonio, the Coalition of Advocates for Adult Protective Services hosted a presentation for members of the Family Services Association and Pride Primary Home Care at the Catherine Booth Garden Apartments. As part of the observance, guests released purple balloons. Speakers included JoAnn Tobias-Molina, regional APS director, and Ron Flores, coalition president. Andres Cruz of

Pride Primary Home Care donated \$500 for food supplies for the local APS resource room and emphasized the need for everyone to speak up and report suspected abuse if they see it. The theme of underreporting of abuse was echoed by both Ms. Tobias-Molina and Mr. Flores, who reiterated that elder abuse is one of the most under recognized social ills.

Vermont

The Northeast Kingdom (NEK) Vulnerable Adult Action Coalition, a multidisciplinary team first funded through an NCEA Elder Justice Mini-Grant, hosted a series of community awareness events in three locations throughout the region simultaneously. According to co-chair Lynn Goulding, members of the coalition were present at each site to facilitate discussion, answer questions on elder abuse, and provide literature and purple ribbons. Events took place at The Good Living Senior Center (St. Johnsbury); the Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital (St. Johnsbury); and the Lyndon Area Senior Meal Site at The Darling Inn (Broad Street, Lyndonville). Flyers and a press release were distributed ahead of time as part of the promotional outreach for the event.

Washington

The Clark County Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force sponsored a conference at the Luepke Center in Vancouver. Featured guests included Vancouver attorneys Jim Senescu and Jessica Dimitrov, who have worked successfully with the coalition to pass vulnerable adults legislation; Joan Smith, chief executive officer of Loaves and Fishes; Dianna Kretzschmar of the Fort Vancouver Convalescent

Center; and Clark County Prosecuting Attorney Art Curtis. Elected officials, health care professionals, and law enforcement from Vancouver, Camas, Ridgefield, Washougal, and Battle Ground were also in attendance. In addition to public awareness initiatives, the coalition has focused on legislative reform.

Wyoming

According to Dorothy Thomas, State APS consultant, a number of events were scheduled to observe World Day. "We are honoring grandparents raising grandchildren for our Elder Abuse Awareness Day of celebration in Cheyenne." Many community groups and organizations participated in the activities, including Legal Services, Victim Services, the Aging Division, the local Senior Center, Wyoming Kinship Advocacy, Community Action and the local Safehouse. Here are highlights of the many events:

- A tea was hosted at the old governor's mansion supported by donations from local senior centers, Wyoming Kinship, AARP, and local merchants;
- A student arts competition was sponsored by the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club with judging by local media volunteers. The theme centered on what their grandparents meant to them. Participants met the Governor and were on hand when the World Day proclamation was read on June 11th.
- Community volunteers "adopted" two families raising grandchildren and cleaned their yards and assisted in household repairs.
- For the third year, the World Day banner was rotated throughout all city bus routes in the state. It read: "Bring Elders Out of the Shadows...Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15."

Reader Contributions

Char Thompson with the Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life in St. Paul, Minnesota, (<http://www.mnall.org>) submitted these comments:

“Because the color purple has historically been the color of the national battered women's movement - that is 25 years and counting, I believe it would be in order for all who are observing this day - WEAAD - to in some way acknowledge the incredible work that has been done by these advocates who have been serving older victims of abuse long before the term, training and education about elder abuse emerged! The purple ribbon pins worn by advocates across the country, together with the many other ways the color is used as a symbol of the **mission: to eliminate abuse against women, children and all those in later life**, can only grow the numbers of citizens now carrying the message of non-violence in personal relationships.”

Thank you, Char, for your comments! The NCEA welcomes your feedback. To submit a comment or question, email: Ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov.

Kathy J. Greenlee Confirmed as U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging

The Administration on Aging (AoA) announced that Kathy J. Greenlee was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services. Nominated by President Obama in early May, she was confirmed on June 25, 2009.

Assistant Secretary Greenlee has extensive experience advancing and promoting the health and independence of older individuals. She has formerly served as the Kansas state Secretary of Aging, Assistant Secretary of Aging, and the state

Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The Kansas Department of Aging is responsible for administering Older Americans Act programs and for the distribution of Medicaid long-term care payments and nursing home licensure and regulation.

Assistant Secretary Greenlee holds degrees in law and business administration from the University of Kansas. In her capacity as the state's Assistant Secretary of Aging, she served as legislative liaison and chief budget officer. She also served as a general counsel at the Kansas Insurance Department (KID). While there, she led the team of regulators who evaluated the proposed sale of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas, and also oversaw the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas program (SHICK), now part of the Department on Aging.

Assistant Secretary Greenlee recently served on the board of the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA). The organization represents the nation's 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging.

Congratulations to Assistant Secretary Greenlee. We look forward to working with the new Assistant Secretary in our mission to protect and enhance the dignity, independence, safety, and well-being of older Americans.

North American Securities Administrators Association and National Adult Protective Services Association Team to Educate Seniors, Prevent Fraud

In a national effort to protect elders from the growing threat of elder financial abuse, the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and the National Adult Protective Services

Association (NAPSA) announced a partnership on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Together, NASAA and NASPA will work to eliminate problems such as financial exploitation and securities fraud among elderly.

A recent study published by the MetLife Mature Market Institute* revealed that financial elder abuse is pervasive; on average, financial abuse costs its victims \$2.6 million per year, and unfortunately many cases of abuse go unreported. Moreover, the problem is compounded by the fact that elders often become victims of those who are closest to them. Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of NAPSA, explained that "Studies show that family members and caregivers are the culprits in more than half of these cases, so unless an outside service provider reports the abuse it may go unpunished."

Having joined forces, NASAA and NASPA will collaborate to provide resources to and educate seniors on the ways in which they can help to prevent elder abuse. The upcoming NAPSA conference in October will feature workshops to that end presented by NASAA representatives.

"Elder financial abuse is becoming the crime of the 21st century as the growing senior population is increasingly targeted," said Fred Joseph, NASAA President and Colorado Securities. "State securities regulators and adult protective services workers are natural partners because we operate at a local level in service to our elderly citizens, and are often the first responders to abuse or financial fraud."

Visit the NASAA web site at:
<http://www.nasaa.org/QuickLinks/ContactYourRegulator.cfm>. Visit NAPSA online at:
www.apsnetwork.org.

*To access *Broken Trust: A Study on Elder Financial Abuse Prevention* by the MetLife Mature Market Institute, the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University go to:

<http://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/mmi/publications/studies/mmi-study-broken-trust-elders-family-finances.pdf>

Register Now Online for the NAPSA Conference/26th Annual Texas APS Conference

Registration is now open for the NAPSA/Texas APS Conference to be held at the San Antonio El Tropicano Holiday Inn. For more information and register, go to:

<http://www.apsnetwork.org/Training/conference.htm>.

Calendar of Events

August 24-26, 2009

2009 Florida Conference on Aging
Trade Winds Island Resort
St. Pete Beach, Florida
Web site: <http://www.fcoa.org>
Telephone: 850-222-8877

September 21 - 26, 2009

Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma: 14th International Conference on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma
Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
San Diego, California
Email: ivatconf@alliant.edu
Web site: <http://www.ivatcenters.org>

September 30-October 2, 2009

National Professional Training Conference on Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities
Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center
Denver, Colorado
Web site:
<http://www.register123.com/event/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x125952abcd>

October 19 - 20, 2009

Washington State's Sixth Annual Vulnerable Adult Abuse Conference: Abuse of Trust: *Investigating and Prosecuting Crimes Against Vulnerable Adults and Elders*
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington
Email: Cyndee.Cavanah@kingcounty.gov
Web site:
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/Prosecutor/elderabuse/conference.aspx>
Phone: 206-296-8797

October 27 – 30, 2009

20th Annual NAPSA Conference/26th Annual Texas APS Conference
El Tropicano Holiday Inn, San Antonio, Texas
Email: APSConference@dfps.state.tx.us
Web site: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us>
Telephone: 210-223-9461

Editorial Note

As this is a special NCEA E-News issue with extensive coverage of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day activities, several of our regular features are not included. Beginning next month, we will resume our quarterly updates. Up Next: September – Elder Abuse Research and Literature; October – Federal Legislative Update; November – State News.

Credits and Contact Information

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<http://ncea.acl.gov>.

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