An Aging Network Response to Victims of Abuse and Neglect

Who We Are
Private Non-Profit Organization, 501(c)(3) Responding to Community Needs for 38 Years

Serving over 85,000 Maricopa County Residents Annually

©2013 Area Agency on Aging, Region One, Inc.
Area Agencies on Aging Nationwide

- 629 Area Agencies on Aging
- 246 Title VI Grantees (Native American aging organizations)
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<th>Who We Serve</th>
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<td>Birth</td>
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<td>Older Adults</td>
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<td>Elder Refugees</td>
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<td>Older Workers</td>
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<td>RSVP Volunteers</td>
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<td>AmeriCorps Members</td>
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<td>Victims of Late-Life Domestic Violence &amp; Elder Abuse</td>
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<td>Residents of Nursing Homes &amp; Assisted Living Facilities</td>
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<td>Family Caregivers &amp; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren</td>
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<td>People w/Disabilities and Long-Term Care Needs</td>
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<td>Persons with HIV/AIDS</td>
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What We Do

- Advocacy
- Legal Services
- Direct Services
- Education & Awareness
- Coalition Building
Meeting the Aging Population

65 + Population

[Bar chart showing the projection of millions of the 65+ population from 2010 to 2050, with an increase over time.]
Demographics

Projections:

- Someone will turn age 60 every 8 seconds for the next 20 years.
- Age 85+ population will grow 1000% to 24% of the elderly population by 2050
- Age 100 will increase 15 times to 3.2 million by 2050
Aging and Vulnerability

- Grief and Loss Issues
- Retirement
- Anxiety
- Sensory Losses: Hearing, Vision
- Live alone; widowed; isolated
- Illness/Dementia
- Reduced tactile sense—pain, touch

- Cognition: Longer to process information
- **Depend on others for care**
Elder Abuse: Scope of the Problem

Arizona Statistics:
- Estimated 2 to 5 million abused annually in the U.S.
- Last year, AZ Adult Protective Services (APS) received an estimated 3,300 alleged reports of elder abuse; with approximately 2,700 of those substantiated.
- Underreported (1 in 14 cases reported)
- 90% of the time the abuser is a family member
- Financial exploitation is often not identified as abuse
Impact of Crime on Elderly Victims

Financial:
- Property damage; monetary loss
- Fixed incomes; no ability to recoup losses
- Medical expenses; dependence on health care system
- Relocation

Physical:
- Hospitalization; nursing facility
- More severe injuries
- Ability to recover diminishes with age; higher mortality rate
- 78% develop acute and chronic anxiety
- **High risk of crisis in older victims**

Emotional:
- Support systems already diminished with age
- Self-blame; anger/shame
- Loss of independence; control
- Loss of trust in others
- Fear of re-victimization=isolation, fear (some never regain normalcy)
- Final blow in an already stressful period; depression
- Stress of interviews and court appearances
- Sentimental losses
How We Respond

- APS Service Coordination
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman
  - Alternatives to Guardianship
- DOVES® Late-Life Domestic Violence Program
  - Support Groups
  - Emergency Housing
  - Transitional Housing
  - Interim Housing
  - Community Education & Awareness
- Legal Assistance
- Maricopa Elder Abuse
- Prevention Alliance (MEAPA®)

Who Responds and What Do They Do?

- Adult Protective Services
- LTC Ombudsman
- Law Enforcement