



Elder Abuse Awareness Events Held in June

The Area Agency on Aging 8 and The O'Neill and Belpre Senior Centers hosted Elder Abuse Awareness Events on the World Awareness Day June 15. Individuals gathered wearing purple to draw attention to the issue of Elder Abuse.

The Area Agency on Aging sponsored speakers and a balloon lift off at each location to draw attention to the serious issue of Elder Abuse.

Elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of the elderly are growing problems. A U.S. Administration on Aging study found that 1.5 million people over the age of 60 are abused or neglected each year.

Abuse of elders takes many different forms, some involving intimidation or threats against the elderly, some involving neglect, and others involving financial exploitation. Raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect is a challenge and no effort is too small.

“Throughout the world, abuse and neglect of older persons is largely under-recognized or treated as an unspoken problem,” said Buckeye Hills AAA8 Director Rick Hindman. “Unfortunately, no community is immune from this issue. Ohio’s Area Agencies on Aging remain concerned that for every one case that does get reported, five others go unreported.”

Communities and municipalities are encouraged to raise awareness of elder abuse issues and concerns. The day recognizes the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. Governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, religious groups, professionals in the field of aging, interested individuals as well as older persons themselves will promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by organizing activities around the world to raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

Raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect is a challenge and no effort is too small. To learn more, visit www.areaagency8.org or call 1-800-331-2644.

See photos below



Around the region, events were also hosted in Marietta and Belpre. Mayors and Commissioners also supported the awareness effort with Proclamations. Shown is Belpre Mayor Mike Lorentz who shared a proclamation. With the Mayor are AAA8 staff Gerri VanNoy and Jeff Vogt.

The Area Agency on Aging 8 and The Monroe County Senior Center hosted an Elder Abuse Awareness Event on the World Awareness Day June 15. Individuals were asked to wear something purple in honor of Elder Abuse Awareness Day. In addition, The Monroe County Council on Aging sponsored a balloon lift off to draw attention to the serious issue of Elder Abuse. The lift off took place in the Senior Center's parking lot following lunch and a brief program. The Monroe County Commissioners issued a Proclamation and from left, John Pyles and Carl Davis joined the group.



Shown at the O'Neill Senior Center in Marietta is Marietta Mayor Moon Mullen; Anita Vaughan of the JFS Adult Protective Services unit; AAA8 Home Care Director Jane Skeen, LSW, and Washington County Sheriff Larry Mincks.