



ELDER ABUSE

→ Hiding in Plain Sight

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elder Abuse....See it. Stop It. Prevent It!

***71 Year Old Celebrates Her Birthday
Giving Back to Her Community by Helping to Prevent Elder Abuse***

Detroit, Michigan (July 2017) – Tamara Perrin, Elder Abuse Prevent Coordinator at Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) celebrates her 71st birthday at the same time that she celebrates helping seniors within the community to recognize and become aware of the signs of elder abuse.

Tamara shares her story of being a caregiver to her grandmother and great aunts long before she retired from other careers. Later she was cast into the role of being a caregiver for a visually-impaired friend due to the death of his girlfriend in 2009 who was also Tamara's best friend. The circumstances surrounding these two caregiving experiences is what prompted her to become a vigilant advocate for seniors and protect them as best she could from being victims of fraud, abuse and the loss of life before their time.

Trust becomes more of an integral part of the quality of life for seniors as they age and begin to lose many of their daily life skills. Knowing who to trust and why is not a small or significant matter in the overall process of aging and caregiving. "I didn't know back then in 2009 that in 2017, I would be working with Faith-Based organizations to provide a toolkit helping seniors to recognize and understand how to protect themselves from fraud and elderly abuse", Tamara said.

Tamara was a volunteer for the DAAA Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program when she saw a job opening posted for the Elder Abuse Coordinator. She knew it was a role which she would have great passion and commitment. At 70-years-old she didn't let her age stop her from submitting a resume. Now almost a year later, she has a beaming smile on her face to be able to serve in the capacity of assisting more seniors.

"It gives me great pleasure to coordinate DAAA's pilot Elder Abuse Prevention program knowing that I'm helping to make a difference," she says.

It is a fact that many faith-based organizations report that the vast majority of their congregation are seniors (According to ABC News BeliefNet Poll 60% of people age 65 and older who report attending religious services at least once a week). This fact coupled with the commitment and dedication that various faith-based organizations have for increasing the need and awareness of elder abuse prevention within the community, has compelled the Detroit Area Agency on Aging to

partner with Second Ebenezer Church, Greater Burnett Baptist Church and Life Line Center to develop an Elder Abuse Toolkit.

“We’ve been working with seniors for a number of years and this pilot project is something that not only will help seniors within our congregation but throughout the community. We certainly want to be a part of the solution to prevent a problem that seems to go unrecognized,” said Bishop Edgar Vann of Second Ebenezer Church.

The State of Michigan estimates that as many as 90,000 older adults in Michigan are victims of elder abuse every year, with many of these crimes going unreported. Nationally, up to 5 million older Americans are abused every year, according to the National Council on Aging.

“Many seniors will not report abuse to social service organizations or human service government agencies, however a great number of older adults feel comfortable sharing their concern with members or leaders in the churches they attend,” says Charisse Ross, DAAA Chief Program Officer. “This pilot program is one of the first funded by the state to raise awareness and promote elder abuse prevention efforts by educating and training Faith-Based organizations how to deal with and help prevent elder abuse.”

The project has already held a kick off and will hold a summit showcasing the Elder Abuse Toolkit for both seniors and caregivers on September 29, 2017. A team of individuals from various community and faith-based organizations from Detroit, the five Grosse Pointes, Hamtramck, Harper Woods and Highland Park meet on a monthly basis to focus on making the pilot a success. The objective of the project is to ultimately contribute to improving the quality of life for seniors in urban communities. For more information on how you can get involved please contact DAAA Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Tamara Perrin.

To register for the Summit Event call to RSVP: (313) 446-4444 ext. 5259, or contact Tamara Perrin via email at perrint@daaa1a.org.

About Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Established in 1980, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) is a nonprofit agency that serves older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers residing in Detroit, the five Grosse Pointes, Hamtramck, Harper Woods and Highland Park. We are one of 16 Area Agencies on Aging in the state of Michigan and 670 in the nation. Our mission is to educate, advocate and promote healthy aging to enable people to make choices about home and community-based services and long-term care that will improve their quality.

For more information, please call (313) 446-4444 or visit <http://www.DetroitSeniorSolution.org>

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