

# Georgia Interfaith Aging Action

Division of Aging Services | 1-866-552-4464 | [www.aging.ga.gov](http://www.aging.ga.gov)



## Issue #7 | Spring 2017

Welcome to **Georgia Interfaith**

**Aging Action**, a quarterly e-newsletter for faith communities, featuring aging program news, current volunteer opportunities, training and resources, and inspiring best practices from the field.

Together, we'll explore topics such as how to identify aging needs in your congregation, ways for your faith



community to fight senior hunger, how your members can get the most from Medicare, how to start or expand a nursing home visitation program, and much more.

**Georgia Interfaith Aging Action** is an outgrowth of the Department of Human Services' Faith and Community Alliance. This rapidly growing statewide initiative gives faith-based organizations tools and information for serving congregations and surrounding communities in areas such as aging services, children and vulnerable families, parental responsibility, fatherhood and child support, mental health, and community reentry.

### This Quarter's Issue

Discover how you can help in the fight against the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders and adults with disabilities.

### Dates to Remember

Looking for newsletter and bulletin content, program ideas, and discussion topics for groups? Plan ahead for these spring and summer dates:



### **Older Americans Month – “Age Out Loud” (May)**

Older Americans Month 2017 is the perfect time to “Age Out Loud.” Click the link below for toolkit materials, activity ideas, and other resources to help you make the most of your May observances. [Click here](#) for more

information.

### **Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month (June)**

"Go Purple" this June to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Encourage your community to seek medical screening, support research, and provide a helping hand to individuals and families affected by dementia. Visit the [Alzheimer's Association](#) for national tools, and find state-specific dementia resources [here](#).

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15)**

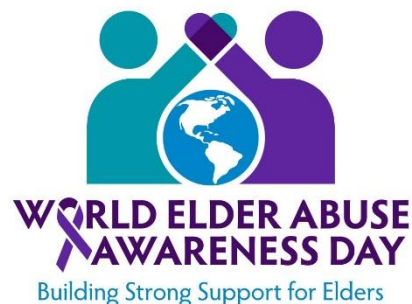
Get the word out about World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) with a social media countdown, faith community guide, training materials, a sample press release, letters to the editor, scam flyers, event planning resources, and additional outreach materials. [Click here](#) for the guide.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (July 26)**

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act is July 26. Access the ADA Anniversary toolkit for media materials, a sample proclamation, PSAs, videos, fact sheets, and more. [Click here](#) for details.

## **Highlighted Action Opportunities**

Are you ready to do your part for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day? You can make an impact by helping your community spot and prevent the victimization of older adults and people with disabilities. For support, contact our state office at the numbers and email addresses shown below under the "Host a presenter" section.



The abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults is on the rise in Georgia. Take a look at exploitation, for example: Between 2007 and 2014, Georgia's banks and other financial institutions reported 300% more incidences of suspected financial exploitation to Adult Protective Services.

To address this increasing problem, the **DHS Division of Aging Services Forensic Special Initiatives Unit (FSIU)** partners with other state and federal agencies, as well as with the private sector, to increase awareness and provide professionals with specific training on at-risk adult abuse. [Click here](#) to learn more about the work that FSIU and its partners do to improve protections for vulnerable Georgians. Here's how you can take action:

### **1. Report suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation.**

Victimization can involve physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse; financial exploitation; neglect by others; and self-neglect. [Click here](#) for a list of warning signs.

**To report abuse in a home** or other community setting, contact Georgia Adult Protective Services at 1-866-552-4464, option 3, or [visit this link for more information](#).

**To report abuse in a long-term care facility**, contact the Georgia Department of Community Health Office of Healthcare Facility Regulation at 1-800-878-6442.

**Always call 911 if a vulnerable adult is in immediate danger.**

### **2. Host a presenter.**

To schedule an FSIU team member to speak to your group, contact David Blake 404-232-1257 [david.blake@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:david.blake@dhs.ga.gov) or Anna Ayers 404-463-7230 [anna.ayers@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:anna.ayers@dhs.ga.gov).

### **3. Distribute materials.**

Visit the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) online to download public awareness tools such as fact sheets and postcards. [Click here](#) to access NCEA's resources.

### **4. Post, tweet, and spread the word.**

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Tool Kit, developed by the University of Southern California Center on Elder Mistreatment, features outreach guides, flyers, customizable templates, and media materials to help you educate others about the abuse of vulnerable adults. [Click here](#) for tools.

## **Resource Spotlight**

Get your whole community involved in the fight against abuse. Awareness handouts in multiple languages are available for free download from the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. Many materials are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. [Click here](#) for these publications:

- Red Flags of Abuse
- Protect Yourself from Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation,
- Protect Your Pocketbook: Tips to Avoid Financial Exploitation
- Home for the Holidays: What to Look for During Your Annual Visit to Elderly Relatives
- 12 Things that Anyone Can Do

## Call for Stories

Readers, please share your outreach successes with us! In each issue, Georgia Interfaith Aging Action will feature faith-based communities making a difference in the lives of older Georgians. Let's hear from you! Contact the Division of Aging Services' Community Affairs Manager at [CynthiaHaley.Dunn@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:CynthiaHaley.Dunn@dhs.ga.gov) / 404-657-1515.

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