

# ABOUT ELDER ABUSE: DID YOU KNOW?

- Elder Abuse is an under-recognized problem with consequences that can be devastating and even **LIFE-THREATENING**.
- Elder Abuse can occur **ANYWHERE** – in the home, in nursing homes, or in other institutions.
- Elder Abuse includes **PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL** and **SEXUAL ABUSE, CAREGIVER NEGLECT**, and **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**, and **90% OF THE TIME IT COMES AT THE HANDS OF FAMILY MEMBERS**.
- Elder Abuse affects senior citizens across **ALL** socioeconomic groups, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations and races.
- Senior citizens are abused at a disproportionately higher rate than younger adults; last year in Onondaga County, **OVER 88%** of all reported adult abuse victims were 60 years of age or older.
- A statewide prevalence study determined that since turning 60 years old, **14%** of seniors had fallen victim to elder abuse, and **ONLY 1 OF 35 INCIDENTS ARE REPORTED** in our region.
- In Onondaga County, **196** referrals regarding suspected Elder Abuse were handled by Adult Protective Services during 2014 (an increase of 12%). Knowing that only 1 in 35 Elder Abuse incidents is reported, over **6,500** incidents of Elder Abuse were **NEVER** reported in Onondaga County.
- Although New York State is now the only state without mandated reporting of elder abuse, many make **VOLUNTARY** reports to Adult Protective Services. Top referral sources are health care providers, concerned individuals, other governmental agencies, financial institutions, service providers, landlords and law enforcement.
- Someone **YOU** know may be suffering from abuse or maltreatment.
- **YOU** can help! If you suspect that someone you know is being abused, neglected or exploited, you can report it by calling **ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES** at **(315) 435-2815**. If the person is in immediate danger and needs help at once, call **911**.
- If you have questions or want advocacy call **VERA HOUSE** at **(315) 468-3260**.

