



Throughout 2022, and continuing into 2023, the Minnesota Elder Justice Center prioritized ensuring strong governance and leadership; continuing our efforts to embed diversity, equity and inclusion in all our work; and providing direct services and education to meet the complex needs of individuals served by MEJC and others.

Faced with six of our original board members set to term off the Board of Directors in early 2023, our team spent significant time and energy throughout 2022 recruiting, selecting and welcoming six new board members to our Board of Directors. We are grateful for the immense dedication these six departing board members dedicated to our board since 2014, and thankful for the newer board members elected in 2022 for their commitment to serve MEJC's mission.

As part of our process to capture the wisdom of long-serving board members and new lens and expertise of our newer board members, the Minnesota Elder Justice Center spent 9 months creating a new Strategic Plan and Equity Framework. This new Plan and Framework guides our work for the next 3 years, and we are grateful to the insightful feedback from others in the field gathered during our planning process. We are excited about the continued direction of our work, and with our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Amanda Vickstrom**

We continued serving older and vulnerable victims of abuse in new and meaningful ways, grew our training audience with elevated webinar opportunities, and continued on our path to ensure policy work prioritizes the needs of older victims of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Our staff continued to assist with safety needs of clients, provided support and advocacy to help older adults eliminate the abuse they were experiencing, and make connections and with other resources who could provide support. This really is the heart of our work. We learn from the experiences of those we support, and take our expertise, our clients' experiences, and provide teaching on the complexities and importance of elder justice work.

Our team is dedicated to our mission – working to alleviate and prevent elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. We help those in need. We listen. We educate. We advocate for systems change. As one of a handful of elder justice centers across the nation, we remain steadfast in this work and we thank you for partnering with us as we grow.

# 2022 Annual Report



*OUR MISSION is to alleviate and prevent the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older or vulnerable adults.*

**2022-2023  
Board of Directors**

- Gilbert Acevedo, Chair
- Maria Sarabia, Vice Chair
- Scott Kreighbaum, Treasurer
- Tammy Hollingsworth, Secretary
- Mark Anderson
- Jim Backstrom
- Chelsea Georgesen
- Dr. Larry Kerzner
- Brenda Shafer-Pellinen
- Pastor Yolanda Y. Williams
- Scott Campbell (2022)
- Jeannie Fichtel (2022)
- Iris Freeman (2022)
- Sue Gray (2022)
- Connie Moore (2022)
- Mamie Segall (2022)

**Strategic Priorities:**

Advance Excellence • Strengthen Sustainability • Expand Partnerships  
Drive Innovation • Promote Awareness

**Guiding Principles**

1. Older adults and vulnerable adults provide a rich history of life experiences that should be honored and respected.
2. Freedom from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation are fundamental rights.
3. Older adults, vulnerable adults and their families deserve information about their rights and choices.
4. Abuse, neglect and exploitation of older and vulnerable adults are private tragedies with public consequences.
5. Collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders are essential to preventing and alleviating abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults.
6. Collaboration between victim services and social services is necessary to reduce abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.
7. Supportive communities and families improve the quality of life for older and vulnerable adults.
8. We acknowledge and must work with the tension that exists between protection and autonomy.
9. The causes and solutions of abuse, neglect and exploitation are complex in scope and origin, because they are individual and systemic. Therefore, multidisciplinary, holistic solutions are needed.
10. Our work is data driven and research based.

*OUR VISION is to be a trusted resource that improves lives, communities, and systems with and on behalf of elders and vulnerable adults.*



*OUR VALUES are to practice integrity, prioritize diversity equity, and inclusion, create openhearted collaborations, innovate, provide responsive service and be committed to excellence.*



**MINNESOTA  
ELDER JUSTICE  
CENTER**

# Our Work

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center is a statewide nonprofit organization working to prevent and alleviate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults. All of our services are free of charge.

## Areas of focus



### Direct Victim Services

SUPPORT  
ADVOCACY

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

These services to older and vulnerable victims of abuse, and their families, are at the heart of our work. We also provide technical assistance to professionals who work with older adults.

900+

PRIMARY & SECONDARY  
VICTIMS OF ABUSE

1600+

CALLS ANSWERED ON  
OUR HELPLINE



### Public Policy & Systems Change

We advocate for policy initiatives that benefit older and vulnerable victims of abuse, prevent abuse, and hold perpetrators accountable.

#### 2022 -2023 POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE WORK

- **Vulnerable Adult Act (VAA)/Adult Protection (APS) Redesign:** We continue to work towards a permanent, dedicated funding stream for county APS teams, and move to reduce disparities in and increase numbers of vulnerable adults receiving services from APS. 2022 and 2023 legislative sessions saw increases in funding, and advancement to modernizing the VAA.
- **Supported Decision-Making Investments:** In 2022 and 2023 we worked in coalition with others to establish a grant program through the Department of Human Services to provide funding for organizations that provide supported decision-making services in an effort to reduce unnecessary guardianships.
- **Assisted Living Licensing:** Work continued to protect the consumer rights and protections gained in 2019 legislation establishing Assisted Living Licensure in Minnesota.

#### COMMUNITY WORK

Our staff continued work with county teams to support a coordinated response to elder abuse, including supporting Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) and Emergency-Multi Disciplinary Teams (E-MDTs) in several communities across Minnesota. Staff also provide technical assistance across the state to communities where no MDT or E-MDT is active and/or present, or when a case arises in which more expertise is needed.

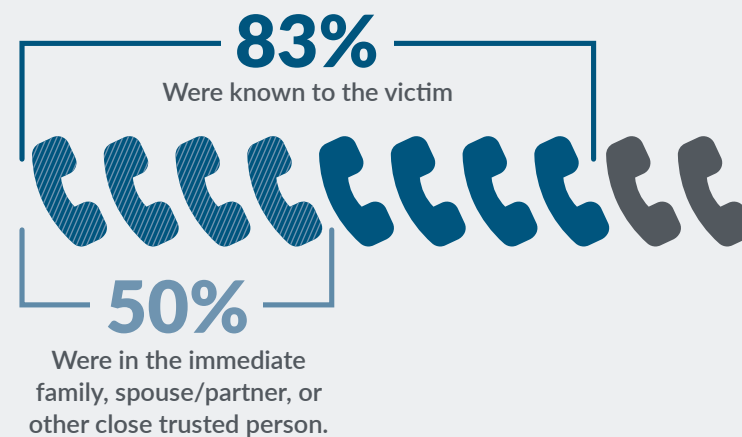


Thank you so much for your assistance with my question, I appreciate you! You and the team at Elder Justice are always so helpful, and I am so grateful you are here as a resource for myself and victim/survivors.

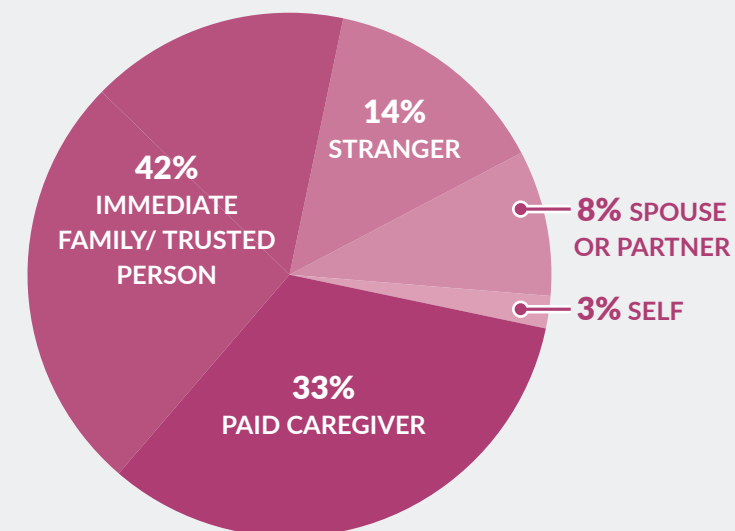
-Advocacy Partner

## Stats at a Glance

#### CALLS THAT IDENTIFIED THE PRIMARY PERPETRATOR



#### REPORTED PRIMARY PERPETRATOR



Financial abuse was found in **49.4%** of the identified incidents.

## 2022 Financials

### Statement of Financial Position

Total Liabilities - \$58,270  
Total Net Assets - \$286,925  
Total Revenue - \$1,017,639  
Total Expenses - \$1,021,952

### Support

Government Grants = \$710,561  
Other Grants & Donations = \$224,880  
Other Revenue = \$82,198

### How Funds Were Spent

85%	Program Services - \$870,702
11%	Management & General - \$108,636
4%	Fundraising - \$42,614



### Training & Education

Our staff provide statewide education opportunities to the public and professionals so they can be informed, help those around them, & build communities that do not tolerate abuse against older & vulnerable adults. We provide entry-level & advanced training to individuals and institutions who work with older & vulnerable adults.

#### 2022: PROVIDED FREE TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO:

13,179  
PARTICIPANTS

122  
HOURS OF EDUCATION

37  
WEBINARS

#### TRENDS FOR 2023



44% AUDIENCE INCREASE  
21% INCREASE IN WEBINARS