



MESSAGE FROM
Amanda Vickstrom
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

harm in complex ways — unwanted, abusive persons residing in their homes and refusing to leave; financial exploitation from loved ones or strangers taking advantage of them; and barriers accessing assistance for help.

We learn from the experiences of those we support, and take our expertise, our clients’ experiences, and teach on the complexities and importance of elder justice work. We are honored to provide a platform that prioritizes free, high-quality, elder justice education through our weekly webinar series that reaches around 400 people each week, in addition to numerous training events throughout the year.

Our policy work continued to focus on protecting the rights of older adults living in long-term care settings; securing funding for pathways to supported decision-making options for those in need of decision-making assistance; and continued improvement of the Vulnerable Adult Act and the adult protection system.

MEJC’s highly engaged and dedicated Board of Directors and leadership worked to ensure strong governance by prioritizing the development of new board members, spending significant time and energy throughout 2023 recruiting, selecting and welcoming five new board members to our Board. We are grateful for the strong interest of community members to join in our work, and are excited for our full board’s commitment to MEJC’s mission and values.

Our entire 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.

Strategic Priorities:

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

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

Guiding Principles

- Older adults and vulnerable adults provide a rich history of life experiences that should be honored and respected.
- Freedom from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation are fundamental rights.
- Older adults, vulnerable adults and their families deserve information about their rights and choices.
- Abuse, neglect and exploitation of older and vulnerable adults are private tragedies with public consequences.
- Collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders are essential to preventing and alleviating abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults.
- Collaboration between victim services and social services is necessary to reduce abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.
- Supportive communities and families improve the quality of life for older and vulnerable adults.
- We acknowledge and must work with the tension that exists between protection and autonomy.
- 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.
- Our work is data driven and research based.

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to share this 2023 report, highlighting the critical work of our staff and board. This annual report is a testament to our mission of preventing and alleviating the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults.

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center continued to prioritize our core services:

- Providing free, confidential support services to those experiencing harm;
- Educating our community members to support the complex needs of older victims; and
- Advancing policy changes to elevate the rights of older and vulnerable adults.

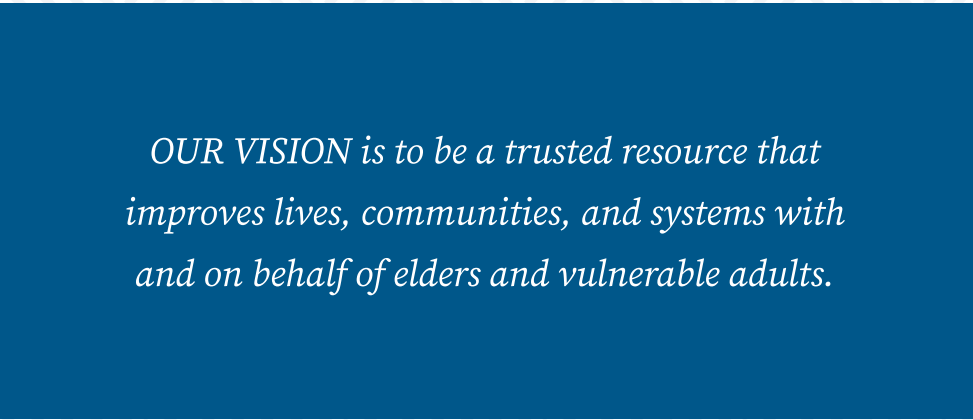
We served more older and vulnerable victims of abuse in new and meaningful ways, grew our training audience with elevated webinar opportunities, and ensured the voices and needs of older victims of abuse were prioritized through our policy and systems change work.

Our direct service staff continued to assist with safety needs of clients, provide support and advocacy to help older adults eliminate the abuse they were experiencing, and make connections with other valuable resources. Throughout 2023, older and vulnerable adults who called us for help continued to experience

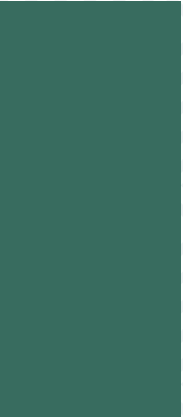
2023
Annual Report



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



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.



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.

1,276

PRIMARY/SECONDARY
VICTIMS

969

PRIMARY PEOPLE
SERVED

2,295

CALLS ANSWERED ON
OUR HELPLINE



Training & Education

Our staff provide statewide education opportunities to the public and professionals so they can be informed, help those around them, and build communities that do not tolerate abuse against older and vulnerable adults. We provide entry-level and advanced training to individuals and institutions who work with older and vulnerable adults. Our audiences include professionals representing social services, the legal community, health care, financial institutions, and others.

2023: PROVIDED FREE TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO:

17,917

PARTICIPANTS

118

HOURS OF EDUCATION

43

WEBINARS

36%↑ AUDIENCE INCREASE FROM 2022

“MEJC does such a great job on these trainings! Thank you for everything you do.”

-Webinar Attendee



Public Policy & Systems Change

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

2023 POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE WORK

- **Vulnerable Adult Act (VAA)/Adult Protection Services Funding:** 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.
- **Consumer Protections for those living in Long Term Care:** Work continued to maintain and enhance the consumer rights and protections gained in 2019, through Assisted Living Licensure, and to expand protections to those living in publicly supported housing settings that offer services like those found in other long term care settings.

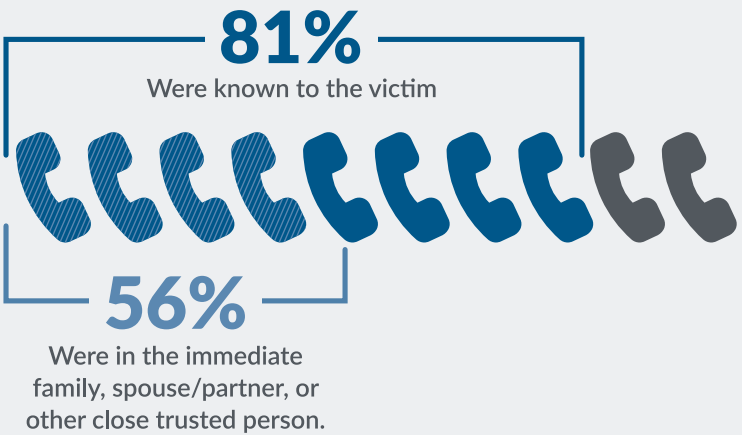


COMMUNITY WORK

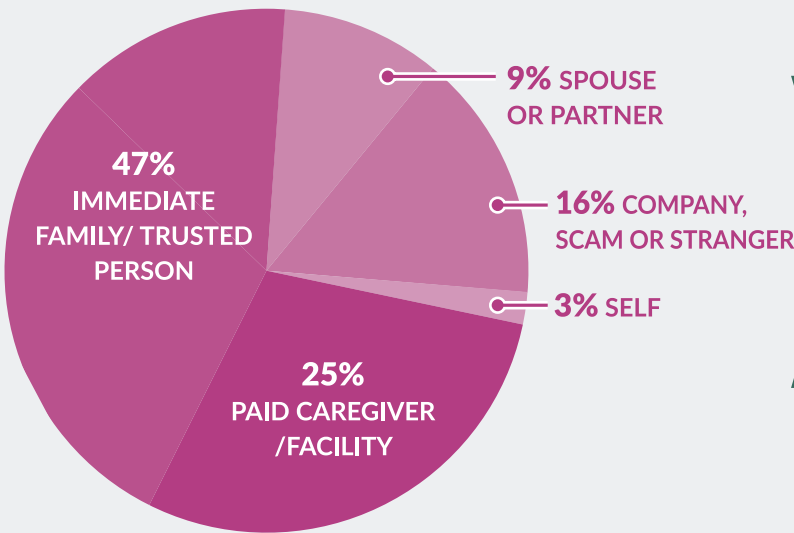
Our staff continued work with county teams to support a coordinated response to elder abuse, including supporting Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) and Enhanced-Multi Disciplinary Teams (E-MDTs) in several communities across Minnesota. Staff also provide technical assistance across the State to communities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

Stats at a Glance

CALLS THAT IDENTIFIED THE PRIMARY PERPETRATOR



REPORTED PRIMARY PERPETRATOR



Calls to the help line increased
44%
over last year

2023 Financials

Statement of Financial Position

Total Liabilities - \$119,028

Total Net Assets - \$399,449

Total Revenue - \$1,279,253

Total Expenses - \$1,166,729

Support

Government Grants = \$854,525

Other Grants & Donations = \$330,083

Other Revenue = \$94,645

How Funds Were Spent

86%	Program Services - \$1,006,034
10%	Management & General - \$115,341
4%	Fundraising - \$45,354

Thank you for all that you do -for me, and not just for me, but for others as well. It is very clear that you've talked with many elderly people. You are patient, and kind, and speak slowly so that I can write things down where I need to, and I don't feel rushed. I really feel listened to today and I appreciate your pace. So, thank you!

- Victim Services Program Participant