



Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to share this 2024 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.

Throughout 2024, older and vulnerable adults who called us for help continued to experience harm in complex ways — financial exploitation from loved ones or strangers taking advantage of them; unwanted, abusive persons residing in their homes and refusing to leave; and encountering barriers accessing assistance for help. Our staff continue to assist with safety needs of clients, provide support and advocacy to help older adults eliminate the abuse they were experiencing, and make connections to other resources who could provide support.

Our policy work continued to focus on protecting the rights of older adults living in long-term care settings; securing funding and 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.

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. Our free weekly webinars have an average attendance of around 450 people. We are honored to provide a platform that prioritizes free, high-quality, elder justice education.

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.

*Amanda Vickstrom*  
Executive Director

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### 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.

# MINNESOTA ELDER JUSTICE CENTER



## 2024 Annual Report



# About Us

## Mission

Minnesota Elder Justice Center’s mission is to alleviate and prevent the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older or vulnerable adults.

## Vision

Minnesota Elder Justice Center is a trusted resource that improves lives, communities, and systems with and on behalf of elders and vulnerable adults.

## Values

- **Diversity, Equity and & Inclusion (DEI)** - We model the fair treatment and full participation of all people, especially persons who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination on the basis of identity or ability.
- **Excellence** - We are committed, knowledgeable, curious, and creative in all our work.
- **Innovation** - We are a learning organization that is willing to question the status quo, create novel solutions and strategies, and take risks to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - We practice intellectual rigor and ethical behavior, transparency, and accountability to our many diverse stakeholders while staying true to our mission and equity framework.
- **Justice** - We seek justice with and for older adults and vulnerable adults who have experienced abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.
- **Openhearted Collaboration** - We are committed to being inclusive in creating and participating in partnerships that improve the lives of Minnesota’s older and vulnerable adults.
- **Responsive Service** - We minimize barriers to service and focus on the well-being of older and vulnerable adults. We are respectful, relevant, and responsive.



# 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.

## 2024 Financials

### Statement of Financial Position

Total Liabilities – \$69,519  
Total Net Assets - \$360,509  
Total Revenue - \$1,142,740  
Total Expenses - \$1,181,670

### Support

Government Grants = \$790,119  
Other Grants & Donations = \$272,710  
Other Revenue = \$85,038

### How Funds Were Spent

Program Services - \$1,026,685 (87%)  
Management & General - \$111,452 (9%)  
Fundraising - \$43,533 (4%)

# Areas of Focus

## Direct Victim Services

Support, advocacy and legal representation 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.



Helpline Calls 2,577  
People Served 1,639

## 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.



Hours of Training 135  
Webinars 41  
Total Audience 24,000

## Public Policy & Systems Change

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

2024 Policy and systems change priorities include:

- Maintain and enhance protections for residents in long-term care settings
- Increase access and availability of Supported Decision-Making services to reduce unnecessary guardianships
- Increase funding and improve access to county based adult protection services

In addition, in communities, 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.



## Board of Directors

- Tammy Hollingsworth, Chair
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- Shelley Lano
- Bao Lee-Yang
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- Brenda Shafer-Pellinen
- Tim Wendler

MEJC’s Strategic Plan for 2023-2026 is centered around five strategic priorities:

- ▶ Advance Excellence
- ▶ Strengthen Sustainability
- ▶ Expand Partnerships
- ▶ Drive Innovation
- ▶ Promote Awareness