



For Immediate Release

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July 20, 2021

Area Nursing Homes Align with Lifespan to Protect Victims of Elder Abuse

Rochester, NY – A group of nursing homes is partnering with Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. to provide short-term housing options for victims of elder abuse. The homes include Episcopal Senior Living, Friendly Senior Living, Jewish Senior Life, St. Ann’s Community, and St. John’s Living (members of the Alliance for Senior Care) and local Hurlbut homes.

“Sometimes the fastest way to ensure safety for an older adult in an abusive situation is offering a respite stay,” notes Kelly Zunner-Daniels, director of the Upstate Elder Abuse Center at Lifespan. “Our area nonprofit and for-profit nursing homes are providing a safe housing option for elder abuse survivors. This allows access to a sheltered environment, away from an alleged perpetrator, for those with skilled nursing needs,” Zunner-Daniels says.

"Our Alliance for Senior Care organizations provide a safe haven for victims of elder abuse," says Glen Cooper, Chairman of the Alliance. "These older adults deserve our protection."

Data from the Upstate Elder Abuse Center at Lifespan shows that the perpetrators of elder abuse too often are relatives or friends. A prevalence study found nearly 300,000 older New York State residents are victims each year. Only one in 24 instances of abuse is reported to authorities. Lifespan intervenes in cases of physical and emotional abuse, neglect and financial exploitation in Monroe and area Finger Lakes counties. The center also provides public education about abuse and scams.

The elder abuse shelter partnership also has the support of the Monroe County Office for the Aging and Monroe County Adult Protective Service.

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