



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

July 9, 2009 /Contact: Lynn Goulding
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Coalition Hosts Elder Abuse Awareness Day Events

On June 15, members of the Northeast Kingdom Vulnerable Adult Action Coalition held community awareness events in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The events called attention to the problem of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue, and were the first of their kind to be held in Vermont.

Coalition members were present at the Lyndon Area Senior Meal Program, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital and the Good Living Senior Center and St. Johnsbury Senior Meal Program to share information about the issue of elder abuse. The Coalition is a team of local law enforcement, social service and health care providers dedicated to addressing this issue.

Purple ribbons were handed out at the event as a visual reminder that working together we can help to ensure that no vulnerable person in our community is subject to abuse. Forms of elder abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, verbal or financial. Until recently, abuse of the elderly remained a hidden and under-recognized issue or was simply ignored. We now know that these problems can happen anywhere – private homes, residential care facilities or nursing homes.

Community members interested in learning more about the work of the coalition are encouraged to contact Chief Richard Leighton of the St. Johnsbury Police Department or Lynn Goulding of the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont at 802-7485182.

Submitted by the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont in collaboration with the Northeast Kingdom Vulnerable Adult Action Coalition (NEK VAAC), a team of local law enforcement, social service and health care providers dedicated to insuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults. For more information about the Coalition and its work contact Lynn Goulding Co-Chair-at the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont at 802-748-5182.

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The NEK Vulnerable Adult Action Coalition
members in the photo
were hosting the event at one of the three event locations.
This was at the St Johnsbury Site
at the Good Living Senior Center/ St Johnsbury Senior Meal Program.



Members are from left to right:
Anne Cosgrove, Victim Services Specialist VT. Dept. of Corrections;
Ken Gordon, Executive Director Agency on Aging for Northeastern VT;
Anne Stacey Owner Anne's Helping Hands;
Dinah Yessne Executive Director St. Johnsbury Community Justice Center