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Cc:

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010 11:32 pm

Subject: Raising Awareness in Erie, Pennsylvania, USA

Hello!

I would like to share with you how Erie, Pennsylvania, USA is working to raise awareness of elder abuse throughout our community. On June 19th a rally is being held entitled 'Stepping Out Against Elder Abuse'. The rally was solely organized and created by three college Social Work students following a research report that presented astounding statistics on the estimated rates of unreported elder abuse throughout our country.

Our group worked for three months to quickly throw together the first ever event specifically targeting elder abuse in our county. We gained the support of the local adult protective services agency, the District Attorney's Office, and the Sheriff's Department - TRIAD. Our event features a guest speaker from the District Attorney's office who deals specifically with cases of abuse and also works with the Elder Abuse Task Force of Erie, which works to educate and train law enforcement in handling cases of elder abuse. We also held a fundraiser, selling event t-shirts, to raise money to benefit the Elder Abuse Task Force and its efforts.

The event and the issue of elder abuse has received much media attention. We have been/are being featured on three news/television stations, the local newspaper, and five radio stations providing information about the issue of elder abuse and our rally.

The event is sure to be a great success, as we have already reached so many households through the publicity we have received as well as the light that has now been casted upon this dark issue.

I just wanted to share our story with you and bring attention to the awareness three college students have brought to our Erie County community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

Thank you!

-Amanda Merski

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