



Elderserve Success Story

Why Health?

Metro United Way is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life—a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health.

Metro United Way works to ensure everyone in our community enjoys lifelong health and independence by:

- Increasing the availability of quality health care information.
- Providing health support services through agency programs.
- Helping seniors and people with disabilities envision and achieve maximum independence and a high quality of life.

Measuring results...2018 Goals and Indicators:

MUW Goals:

People get need physical and mental health care.
People are practicing healthier living.

Indicators (Why this is important.)

- Growth of the oldest elderly (85 and over) is of the greatest public concern—from 1995-2010, this population is expected to grow 56%, between 2010-2030 growth is projected at 50%.
- Major depression is a widely under-recognized and under-treated medical illness in the elderly
- Comprising only 13% of the U.S. population, individuals 65 and older account for 20% of all suicide deaths, with white males particularly vulnerable.

(source:elderserveinc.org)

When people in our community are safe, practice healthy living, and get needed physical and mental health care, they will live longer with a higher quality of life.

Elderserve Assists Abused Seniors

ElderServe's Senior Crime Victims' Assistance Program recently received a police report regarding a domestic violence case. The victim, "Mary M," 85, had been beaten by her 59-year-old son, Ed, an alcoholic and drug abuser. A fragile lady, Mary did not know how to stop the abuse. She lived in fear of her son and was even more agonized because her husband of 53 years was complicit in the abuse, which had been going on for many years and had recently grown more violent. After a particularly violent attack, Mary was hospitalized for several days.

ElderServe picked her up the day she was discharged from the hospital. ElderServe's first step was to obtain an Emergency Protective Order (EPO) for Mary, and for the Emergency Crisis Response Team (ECRT) to find her a new place to live. A local hotel that is usually available as a safe house was filled because of a large convention in town. The Crime Victims Program Director contacted the Center for Women and Families, another Metro United Way participating agency, and they agreed to provide temporary housing.

Mary was very frightened, and happy to be in a safe location away from her abusers. ElderServe assigned a Homecare specialist to Mary, who accompanied her to several follow-up appointments with a doctor. Two Crime Victims advocates accompanied Mary to pick up clothing and medication from her former home. An advocate also referred Mary to an attorney and took her to the appointment where she filed for divorce. Criminal and Family Court dates are scheduled, and ElderServe team members will accompany Mary to them.

Meanwhile, ElderServe's Client Services is working to find affordable housing for her until the divorce is final. Mary has been referred for counseling, and is eager to begin a new, safer life. ElderServe will continue to work to help Mary to ensure a higher quality of life for her and all senior crime victims in our community.

Elderserve, a Metro United Way funded agency, provides social services, senior companions, home care, adult daycare, crime victims advocacy and other services for seniors throughout Jefferson County. Elderserve's purpose is to assist the increasing needs of our aging community as a whole, provide support to family members and friends, and turn the needs of the elderly into opportunities to retain independence and dignity.

The Center for Women and Families, a Metro United Way Funded agency, provides programs and housing for people affected by domestic violence, rape/sexual assault and economic hardship

Here's how you can help:

- Become an advocate. For more information, please call (502) 292-6142.
- Give. A donation of \$15.00 per week provides thirty round-trips transporting seniors from home to a doctor's appointment and allowing them to live independently.

To live united is to understand that we are all interconnected. Metro United Way is working to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. For more information, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, please visit us at metrounitedway.org or call 502.583.2821.