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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Waukesha, WIS. – Hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected, and exploited, yet, according to Administration on Aging Acting Assistant Secretary for Aging Edwin L. Walker, “only about one in five of those crimes is ever discovered.” June 15, 2009 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The National Center on Elder Abuse describes elder abuse as intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that causes (or potentially causes) harm to a vulnerable elder. In Wisconsin, Elder Abuse and Neglect includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, treatment without consent, unreasonable confinement or restraint, financial exploitation, neglect, and self-neglect.

During 2008, there were 57 reports of Elder Abuse and Neglect in Waukesha County. Of these, 15 reports were substantiated. The primary issues most often identified in the reports were self-neglect and financial exploitation.

To report a suspected case of elder abuse/neglect, if the abuse or neglect is occurring within Waukesha County, and is not occurring in a State Licensed Facility, call the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Waukesha County (ADRC) at (262) 548-7848 or (866) 677-2372 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. After hours please call 211/First Call For Help by dialing 211 or (262) 547-3388, the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department at (262) 548-7122, or your local law enforcement office. If the abuse or neglect is occurring in a Wisconsin State Licensed Facility call the Ombudsman for the Elderly and Disabled at 1-800-815-0015. If the abuse or neglect is occurring outside of Waukesha County call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or refer to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Internet listing of Wisconsin County Elder Abuse Agencies, or call your local law enforcement agency.

Join the ADRC staff and wear a purple ribbon on June 15 to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. A limited number of ribbons are available from the ADRC. Call the ADRC at (262) 548-7848 for additional information.

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