

Anne See: Fighting Adult Abuse for 40 years

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Chances are you have met Anne See if you participate in local senior citizen activities. Anne has worked for Blue Ridge Legal Services for almost 40 years and her current title is Public Benefits & Elder Law Paralegal. During her career she has served the public that needs her help the most. She started working with senior citizens in Rockingham County and the city of Harrisonburg and later added all ages to her caseload. Over the years her job has changed, but not her passion for helping others. She is active in several organizations that serve senior citizens including TRIAD and an Elder Rights group that she created.

In 2010 she wrote and received a grant that would impact several of the communities that she serves. It was a new idea at the time and

in fact, it was just the second one of its kind in Virginia. The Greater Augusta Coalition Against Adult Abuse (GACAAA) was born out of this grant and in 2017, it became a 501(c) 3 non-profit. Their mission is to identify and utilize coalition resources through partnerships, community action, education and advocacy; to promote safe communities free from abuse, neglect and exploitation; and address circumstances that make all adults vulnerable. Anne wanted to make sure that agencies could work together to prosecute adult abuse. She serves as the President, and along with the rest of the board, works to make their mission a reality.

On May 8th, the GACAA hosted their annual training for law enforcement, agencies, prosecutors, and anyone else

interested in learning how to take steps in the reporting and prosecution of elder abuse. Outstanding speakers brought the sadness and reality of adult abuse to the attention of the participants. They also shared resources, ideas, and solutions that can come out of these situations.

Every year, June 15th is designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Many years Anne See has worked with groups to provide an educational opportunity on that day. This year, she hopes people will attend a Fraud Symposium sponsored by the Augusta County Sheriff's Office. It is being held on June 15th from 9:30-11:30 am at the Augusta County Administration Building. Can't make it? Take the time to learn about elder abuse. Learn to recognize it and report it. Even better, contact Anne See



at stopadultexploitation@gmail.com to learn more about volunteer opportunities in our community. Anne See knew 40 years ago that she needed to get involved in protecting vulnerable adults and she's still going strong. Thank you, Anne, for all you do!