



News Release

For more information contact:

Christen Gallik, Director

Fredericksburg Department of Social Services

540-372-1032

**Fredericksburg Social Services Recognizes Elder Abuse Prevention Month**

(Fredericksburg, VA) May 13, 2019 – The month of May is recognized nationally as Elder Abuse Prevention Month. Each year the Fredericksburg Department of Social Services holds a variety of activities to raise awareness and funds to support our work with our elderly and disabled populations.

Adult Protective Services (APS) serves both adults over the age of 60 and incapacitated adults between ages 18 – 59. In 2018, the State of Virginia received 31,436 adult protective services Reports. Of those reports 21,461 were investigated and nearly 50% were substantiated. In Virginia, 60% of substantiated cases were due to the victim’s self-neglect. Other types of abuse include physical, sexual, mental, and financial exploitation. Since January 2019, Fredericksburg DSS has investigated 45 APS referrals. Similar to statewide trends, a majority of these local cases are categorized as self-neglect - many times due to no food in the home or the inability to obtain food for the home.

For more information on adult protective services or to make a donation of cash and/or gift cards to aid the area’s elderly and disabled in need, contact Kelly Adriazola at 540-372-1032 ext. 255 or [Kelly.adriazola@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:Kelly.adriazola@dss.virginia.gov). To report a concern to adult protective services, please contact intake during business hours (8:00am-4:30pm) at 540-940-2401 and after hours at 888-832-3858.

###