

# Elder Services Community Advocate

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REACH Beyond Domestic Violence is a non-profit organization providing safety and support to survivors of abuse while engaging communities to promote healthy relationships and prevent domestic violence. Our programs include 24-hour hotline services, emergency shelter, support groups, legal advocacy, specialized children's services, community-based survivor advocacy programs and community education and training. Each year, REACH will work with over 6,000 people in our 27 community service area and beyond.

REACH offers supportive services from a trauma-informed, relational model where staff members provide a consistent presence in a survivor's life, accompanying them to doctors' visits, court dates, and other appointments necessary to rebuild their lives. We do this while paying special attention to the effects of trauma that each survivor has experienced, and how that influences their choices, coping skills, and emotional health. We are seeking an Elder Services Community Advocate who will work with elder individuals in the communities we serve.

## **Elder Services Community Advocate General Description**

REACH Beyond Domestic Violence is the recipient of a multi-year grant from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women under the Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program. This is a collaborative project designed to increase and strengthen training for police, prosecutors and the judiciary in recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of abuse, neglect, exploitation, domestic violence and sexual assault against older individuals; provide or enhance services for older victims; create or support multidisciplinary collaborative community responses to older victims; and conduct cross-training for victim service organizations, governmental agencies, court, law enforcement, and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving older victims. REACH is the lead partner of Waltham Against Abuse in Later Life (WAALL), along with the Waltham Police Department, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Springwell, Inc., and Newton-Wellesley Hospital's Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program. REACH is also partnering with law enforcement, adult protective services and other elder serving providers in the towns of Belmont, Lincoln, Newton, Sudbury, Wayland, Watertown and Weston. The Elder Services Community Advocate will be working with elder survivors from these communities.

REACH is now hiring a full-time Elder Services Community Advocate to work with older individuals who are being hurt by a spouse, partner, adult child or family member or caregiver. The Elder Services Community Advocate will work closely with REACH's Elder Services Project Coordinator as part of REACH's community advocacy team and also participate in agency-wide education and fundraising events. The position reports to the Director of Advocacy.

## **Elder Community Outreach and Education**

- Develop and strengthen relationships with elders, age 50+, and the agencies that serve them
- Develop and execute a schedule to be available to meet with elders at multiple locations including local Councils on Aging/Senior Centers, Senior Housing and Nursing Home locations, and various faith and health care locations
- Collaborate with law enforcement officers on visits with elder residents
- Develop and execute a plan to work with home care providers to create a referral process, and work with elder individuals in their homes

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- Work with MOU partners and REACH's intake coordinator to develop a universal intake form that will minimize victim re-traumatization
- Work with Helpline coverage staff and volunteers as they support elder callers
- Attend all meetings of MOU Partners and Coordinated Community Response Team

## **Elder Individual Support and Advocacy**

- Provide advocacy services for elder individuals experiencing physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse, stalking, neglect, and financial exploitation, including advocacy work around issues such as housing, benefits, employment, medical and dental care, legal matters, immigration, mental health and substance abuse
- Work with elder individuals to address the intersections and complexities in their lives around safety and stability
- Assist elder individuals with accessing community resources and transportation to and from appointments
- Create safety and service plans with elder victims, and link and coordinate services across agencies
- Accompany elder individuals to court and other appointments as needed
- Develop and implement a series of 12-week support groups focused on crafts, photos or memories while discussing abusive behaviors in a safe environment, and sharing and reflecting upon feelings and facts with other survivors

## **Other Responsibilities**

- Attend staff meetings and program meetings
- Attend fundraising events as needed
- Assist with events or initiatives that will benefit all survivors that REACH serves
- Assist with other responsibilities as assigned by the Director of Advocacy

## **Qualifications:**

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualities and experience:

- Experience working with elder individuals
- Experience working in partnership with community agencies
- Excellent administrative and communication skills
- 1-2 years doing case management or advocacy work
- Knowledge and experience in the field of domestic and/or sexual violence

Candidates must have the flexibility and willingness to work some evenings and weekends as needed. A car is required for this position.

**Salary:** Low to mid- \$40,000s

Please send resume and cover letter to Maria Pizzimenti, Director of Advocacy, at [jobs@reachma.org](mailto:jobs@reachma.org).

REACH is committed to advancing the safety, healing, and empowerment of those who experience domestic or relationship violence, through direct services and education while promoting social justice for individuals and families of all backgrounds. Our employment policies reflect our mission.