

Elder Abuse Victim Takes Back Control of his Money and his Life

Positive Stories / Lessons Learned from HPRP: *Individual Success Story*

HPRP Grantee:	State of Oregon
CoC Name and Number:	OR-505 Oregon Balance of State

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	862	Total persons in TH:	1,426
Total persons in Safe Haven:	5	Total unsheltered persons:	4,713
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	7,006		

Henry* will testify that HPRP assistance saved his life. As a fifty-six year old, his experience matches many of the National Council on Aging's elder abuse statistics: his abuse was both physical and financial, his abuser was a close family member, and like 83% of abused elders, he did not report the abuse while it occurred.

Henry's daughter had recently invited him to move in with her. While his social security disability paid for his own sparsely furnished apartment and modest living expenses, he readily accepted the opportunity for family companionship. "The first week or so was good," his HPRP case manager recounted. "It took him a while to learn that she was taking his money. Her name was on his bank account, and she was withdrawing his direct-deposit SSDI checks. They started not getting along, but by then he was dependent on her." One night at 10pm, she handed him a note with a shelter's phone number and told him to leave.

After two months of living in shelter, Henry entered Community Services Consortium's HPRP office and began talking to a case manager. She remembers him describing hopelessly how he was "watching his money disappear into thin air": his daughter was withdrawing more money than he had, the bank was withdrawing the overdraft fees she incurred, and he felt powerless to protect himself. He also revealed to his case manager, slowly, that his daughter had begun to physically abuse him. Stabilizing his financial affairs was clearly connected to breaking his daughter's abusive relationship with him, so his case manager helped him contact the bank, close out his joint account and open a new one.

Two more months passed before the overdraft fees were paid off and Henry could cash his SSDI checks, and his case manager used this time for intensive budget counseling. When he found an apartment, HPRP paid for the security deposit and first month's rent; he exited HPRP after three more months of case management, in control of his bank account and again with enough income to pay all of his monthly expenses. Henry regularly follows up with his case manager, but rarely with his own concerns – "he's always calling and asking if we at CSC can do something for a person he met through church, for his neighbor who's having money problems, for a homeless man at his old shelter." Through these calls, Henry builds a network of resources for the people around him, and the support he received through HPRP and his case manager is reflected in the compassion he offers those in need every day.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

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