



# TRIAD NEWSLETTER

## Safety for Older Adults

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## BEWARE OF GIVING OUT INFORMATION

By Traci Furman, Triad Coordinator

“Our older adults are always a target of scams, but the activity seems to have increased”, says Senior Services volunteer, Mary Aldrich. Mary shared her story with News Channel 3 in October 2017. “During Medicare Open Enrollment season there seems to be more opportunity for this kind of scamming behavior,” said Mary, a volunteer with the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP). “Please remind your clients, customers, friends, family and volunteers to NEVER open their door to someone they don’t know or didn’t expect. If they are the target of a possible scam or an unfortunate victim, encourage them to report it their local police department. If it involves their health information or Medicare number, MMAP will also report it using our reporting database.”

**KALAMAZOO, Mich. (NEWSCHANNEL 3)** — A family is speaking out about what they said was a new scam targeting the elderly in Kalamazoo. The alleged suspect claims to work for Bronson Hospital and asks to see elderly residents’ medications. Detectives from the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety said so far they’ve only received one report of this possible scam in our area.

One family said they know of other victims, and they want everyone to be aware of what’s happening. Mary Aldrich said her 97-year-old mother may have fallen victim to a scam, when a woman came to her mother’s door dressed in a hospital uniform. “She said she was from Bronson in a pilot program, and she was here to check my mom’s meds,” Aldrich said. Her mother and her caregiver allowed the woman in, who said she was very professional and seemed legitimate despite the fact they weren’t expecting anyone from Bronson. “She wrote down the meds my mother was taking and then the lady asked ‘do you take any pain meds?’ and my mom doesn’t,” Aldrich said. “So, the lady said thank you very much for the information for the pilot program and she left.”

We reached out to Bronson Hospital about the alleged scam. The hospital gave this statement: *It is unfortunate someone is misrepresenting themselves as a Bronson nurse. Please be assured that Bronson home health care employees only visit homes of established patients by appointment and will have Bronson identification.*

Days later, the family filed a report with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety. “We documented that incident as a suspicious occurrence, because there have been some ongoing things of people targeting the elderly in weeks past,” Captain Shannon Bagley with KDPS said. Capt. Bagley said Kalamazoo County is a hotbed of elderly scams right now, and families need to urge caution with loved ones. “If it’s out of the norm of what they’re used to, they should always pause and ask questions or say no thank you,” Capt. Bagley said. “Then make calls to the appropriate agencies and check up on it.”

The Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office released a picture of the woman they believe orchestrated a different scam targeting senior citizens. Deputies said she was able to get credit and debit card numbers from about a dozen elderly victims and use them to steal tens of thousands of dollars. The sheriff’s office believes she is currently on the run and may be in Tennessee. If you have information on either of these alleged scams - or you are a victim - contact police.

Resource: WWMT News, [www.wwmt.com](http://www.wwmt.com)

## WHAT IS TRIAD?

Law-enforcement seniors, and concerned citizens working together to increase older adult safety and to allay their fears of crime.

**You’re invited to attend our next Triad council meeting.**

**Tues. January 9**

**9:30-10:30am**

**at**

**Senior Services in Kalamazoo**

## TRIAD SPEAKERS BUREAU

Presenters available to give talks on various senior safety concerns

**Kalamazoo County Triad**

**Contact**

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**Senior Services**



**Southwest Michigan**

6th Annual Michigan  
Elder Justice & At-Risk  
Adult Summit



Save The Date: July 17, 2018

**Elder Justice & At-Risk Adult Summit**

**For:** Seniors, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Adult Protective Services, Educators, and Home Health Care Professionals.

**Where:** Lansing Center, Lansing, MI 48933

**Time:** 9AM-4PM

**Registration Fee:** \$25

**For Information:** Hayford-Wilson@michigan.gov

**Triad's  
Newest  
Senior Safety  
Tips Booklet  
Now  
Available**

The new edition has topics such as Dating Site Scams, Home Improvement Scams, Grandparent Scam and Hoarding.

The fifth edition of the Senior Safety Tips Booklet gives readers detailed information about 22 safety issues.

The booklet has a law enforcement county directory and safety reference directory.

You can pick up free copies at our office at 918 Jasper Street in Kalamazoo during business hours.

Booklets are also available at [SeniorServices1.org](http://SeniorServices1.org).

Contact Traci Furman at 269-382-0515 ext. 123 [tfurman@seniorservices1.org](mailto:tfurman@seniorservices1.org) for more information.

For a Red/Med Box location near you, go to [redmedbox.com](http://redmedbox.com) or contact Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste 269-373-5211 or the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force 269-388-4200



**TRIAD OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY  
RECOGNIZED FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

By Traci Furman, Triad Coordinator

On October 20, 2017 friends and colleagues were invited to a reception of Triad's 20 years of service to senior safety. The Governor, Lt. Governor and Kalamazoo County legislative delegation of Representatives Brandt Iden, Jon Hoadley, Beth Griffin and Dave Maturen, and Senator Margaret O'Brien thanked Triad for making a difference in the Greater Kalamazoo community. Representative Iden presented the tribute certificates to Triad Council members.

Triad began in Kalamazoo in October 1997. It is a project of RSVP—Your Invitation to Volunteer, program of Senior Services of Southwest Michigan. RSVP is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency, sponsors, and donations. Triad's partners are Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department, Portage Police Department, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Kalamazoo Township Police Department, RSVP Volunteers, Kalamazoo County Neighborhood Watch Association, Fresh Perspective Home Care, and Data Guardian.

