COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.
BUNCOMBE COUNTY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15 – Get Informed and Involved!

(ASHEVILLE)— June 15, 2009 has been designated as "Elder Abuse Awareness Day" across the nation. In recognition, The Council on Aging will tie a purple "Elder Abuse Awareness" ribbon at the entrance to The Council's office located on the campus of the Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community. Other awareness activities include distribution of posters and flyers by The Buncombe County Department of Social Services with the message, "Abuse Hurts at Any Age."

The National Center on Elder Abuse notes that elder abuse can occur *anywhere* – in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. Abuse affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. Based on available information, women and "older" elders are more likely to be victimized. Risk factors include dementia, mental health and substance abuse issues - of both abusers and victims – and isolation. Find out more at www.ncea.aoa.gov.

To report Elder Abuse in Buncombe County, call the Department of Social Services at 250-5800; call 2-1-1 after business hours.

Information about services available to Buncombe County older adults is available from The Council on Aging of Buncombe County at 277-8288, The Council on Aging website: www.coabc.org or The Buncombe County website at www.buncombecounty.org.

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