

# **MODULE 7**

## **HOME SAFETY**

Providing Independent Living Support:  
Training for Senior Corps Volunteers

### **HANDOUT WORKSHEETS**

This Home Needs Your Help!

Problem-Solving Exercise:  
Help This Client Reduce Risks  
and Feel Safer

Training Feedback Survey

## This Home Needs Your Help!

**Your Mission:** Today, you and your partner have volunteered to help your favorite neighbor, 83-year old Mrs. Beasley, clean her house. She has been meaning to straighten up for some time, but her health is poor, her eyesight is failing, and things got away from her. Now she is completely overwhelmed and her home is unsafe!

Take 3 minutes to look at the picture and list everything you can spot that might need your attention.



List all potential health and safety problems you suspect may be a hazard to Mrs. Beasley:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## Problem-Solving Exercise: Help This Client Reduce Risks and Feel Safer

**Instructions:** The facilitator will assign your group one of the clients below. All of the clients are on a fixed (low) income and live alone.

Read your client's description, and take a minute to visualize his/her living situation and state of mind. Brainstorm with your group, and answer the questions on the next page. Be ready to discuss!

### Client #1: Cecilia



Cecilia is an elderly woman (84 years old) who has been living in the same apartment for 20 years. She is friendly with her neighbors, but not her landlord, whom she fears is looking for an excuse to have her evicted so he can rent to a higher-paying tenant. When problems with her apartment occur (as they frequently do), she is reluctant to call the landlord. For example, this past winter there was a lot of rain, and she discovered her windows leaked, leading to indoor mold problems. Several times, Cecilia accidentally burned herself with the tap water but she doesn't know how or if she can lower the temperature. She also suspects the gas heating system isn't working properly (a bad smell comes out of the vent) so she uses a portable heater instead. She leaves it on full blast and often forgets to turn it off.

### Client #2: Salvador

Salvador is 74 years old and lives in an old, poorly-designed two-story house with a small gray cat. He sleeps upstairs but the bathroom, to which he must make frequent visits during the night, is downstairs. At the end of the day, even though his eyesight is failing, he likes to watch television in bed while enjoying a glass of wine and a smoke. Recently his doctor proscribed new medication which, Salvador tells you, has side effects that include occasional dizziness.



### Client #3: Lester

Lester is in pretty good physical shape at age 78 and has been living in the same small house since he was married back in 1956. Since his wife died, however, he has been depressed and has not had the heart to get rid of her things, which are everywhere (she was an avid collector of Beanie Babies and old Life magazines). The neighborhood has also changed quite a bit. Lester remembers when he and his wife took evening strolls after dinner to look at the moon. Now, there have been several muggings and break-ins in the area, and Lester hears screeching tires outside at all hours. He doesn't drive and feels terribly vulnerable walking home from the grocery store saddled with packages.





## Training Feedback Survey

Please help us improve our training sessions by providing feedback on the training you attended. Thank you!

Training/Session Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_

Program you serve with:  SCP  RSVP  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate this session using the following scale:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
1. The subject matter was presented effectively.					
2. The facilitator was knowledgeable.					
3. The facilitator responded to questions.					
4. There were enough opportunities for discussion.					
5. The written materials are useful.					
6. The session met my expectations.					
7. As a result of this training, I gained new knowledge applicable to my volunteer assignment.					
8. I plan to apply what I learned at this session.					

9. What did you like best about this session?

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10. What would have improved this session?

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***Thank You! Your feedback will help us to improve our training!***