



December 2011

Videos Tell Stories of Older Adults One Away From Financial Crisis

One in three older Americans is just one bad break – one illness, one lost job – away from financial crisis. AgeOptions tells the stories of three such individuals in short videos that are part of the National Council on Aging's *One Away* video advocacy campaign.

In the videos, Andre, Darlene and Emma talk about the turns their lives have taken and how services provided by AgeOptions and community agencies have assisted them.

AgeOptions is one of 14 agencies chosen by NCOA to take part in the national video advocacy campaign that gives voice to vulnerable older adults who are struggling to make ends meet in today's economy.



The campaign captures real stories of seniors on video and calls for legislative and policy changes to make it easier to get the services and support they need to live with independence and dignity.

"Putting a face on an issue helps people understand the need for solutions," said Maribeth Stein, AgeOptions outreach specialist. She made the videos with Luan Mazreku, an AmeriCorps VISTA member working with the AgeOptions Economic Security Program. NCOA provided training and equipment.

The videos and where to see them

The three AgeOptions videos, *Andre's Story*, *Darlene's Story*, and *Emma's Story*, can be seen along with all the NCOA *One Away* videos at www.oneaway.org. They can also be seen at the individual links below.

Andre's Story

Andre never imagined he would have to live in his car -- until he lost his job and then his home. Click here to view his story: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycq_0qRoRy4

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Darlene's Story

Darlene spends her days caring for her husband, Bill. This is not the retirement they had envisioned, with him in bed and her doing everything she can to make him comfortable and give him some quality of life. Click here to see her story:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/AgeOptions>

Emma's Story

Emma has been caring for her 85-year-old mother and her 102-year-old Gran for years. Click here to see her story: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXj1Jyxvbeo>

The NCOA website includes this video from Comcast Newsmakers in which Jonathan Lavin discusses the *One Away* videos: <http://www.oneaway.org/In-Your-State/Illinois>