



September 28, 2015

Celebrating Our History and Honoring Our Gems

As Consumer Voice Celebrates our 40th Anniversary we want to take this opportunity to reflect on our past and recognize the individuals who shaped our organization. In honor of the 40-year ruby anniversary we will highlight Consumer Voice's Gems which include key leaders, organizations, and special moments that have made a significant impact on our organization's development, mission, and advocacy.

For this month's gem, we celebrate our partners.

Building effective partnerships has been an important component in the Consumer Voice's advocacy efforts over the last 40 years. Other advocacy and professional organizations, funders, researchers, and long-term care providers have enhanced our community engagement and allowed us to multiply the power of advocacy for quality long-term care services and supports around the nation. By collaborating with partners we have increased community awareness on key issues such as abuse and neglect, restraint reduction, quality care, residents' rights, person-centered care, reducing the use of inappropriate antipsychotic medications, and self advocacy. Our partnerships have helped us establish a network of advocates dedicated to improving long-term care.

The role of our partners has been to inform community leaders, decision-makers, and elected officials about consumer issues and advocate for quality improvements. The Consumer Voice and our partners have been able to do this several times in the last four decades. The Consumer Voice campaigns to pass the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 (OBRA 87) and then to prevent the repeal of the Nursing Home Reform Act (NHRA) in 1995 are example examples of successful advocacy due to collaboration. Both campaigns were championed by members of congress and supported by many partner organizations such as AARP, the Alzheimer's Association, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and the Service

Employees International Union (SEIU). The advocates, as well as other national organizations, were successful in both of these campaigns and the Nursing Home Reform Act continues to serve as the foundation for quality care.

Advocacy to address current issues such as mandatory arbitration agreements, adequate and well-trained staff, requiring a registered direct care nurse on duty 24 hours per day in nursing homes, quality care in assisted living and home and community based services, require the invaluable support of partnerships. Additional partners include Justice in Aging, the Center for Medicare Advocacy (CMA), AMDA, PHI, American Health Care Association (AHCA), Leading Age, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administration for Community Living, the National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP), the National Association of Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman (NALLTCO), the American Association for Justice (AAJ), Pioneer Network, the Direct Care Alliance, and the Direct Care Network.

Together hundreds of national, state, and local organizations and individuals are working to improve the long-term care services and supports system. If you are not currently a member, Consumer Voice encourages you to join our network in order to help us reach consumers, advocates, and supporters around the nation and successfully advocate for issues that are important to all of us.

You are invited to join us in celebrating 40 years of making quality care matter by signing this [ecard](#), sending a congratulatory message to info@theconsumervoice.org, become a [member](#), and/or supporting our current and future work with a [contribution](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and visit our [40th Anniversary webpage](#) for additional information and opportunities to celebrate with us.

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The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care - 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 425 - Washington, DC 20036 - telephone: (202) 332-2275 - fax: (202) 403-3473 - info@theconsumervoice.org