**Sample Ombudsman Newsletter Article**

**Long-Term Care Residents Honored During Residents’ Rights Month,**

**October 2020**

Connections Matter

Across the country, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities along with family members, ombudsmen, citizen advocates, facility staff and others will honor the individual rights of long-term care residents by celebrating Residents’ Rights Month in October. Designated by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, this month highlights the importance of listening to residents who live in our country’s nursing homes, assisted living and board and care facilities.

As an ombudsman, you are encouraged to promote Residents’ Rights Month celebrations and events in your facilities. Visit the Consumer Voice’s website – [www.theconsumervoice.org](http://www.theconsumervoice.org) – for promotional materials and event ideas; stories of resident empowerment from across the country; materials for ombudsmen, social workers and others involved in the care at nursing homes, assisted living, and board and care facilities; activity ideas for residents to take part in Residents’ Rights Month; training programs/ideas for facility staff, fact sheets for residents and families and more.

**<Insert details about state or local ombudsman program here.>**

This year's theme is “Connection Matters.” The theme emphasizes connections – to family, to friends, and to the community – as an essential component of good health and quality of life for residents.

“The months of restrictions on visitation in long-term care facilities and the inability of residents, families, and friends to be together during the coronavirus pandemic has emphasized the importance of connection, of relationships, and the impact they have on all of our well-being. During this crisis, many creative ways of staying connected were shared that can be replicated and built upon in all communities,” said Lori Smetanka, Executive Director of the Consumer Voice.

Thank you for working to make Residents’ Rights Month meaningful for all involved. Please remember to share information about your successes so that we can include them in weekly blast e-mails to our membership, on our website and in next year’s packet. If you have questions, email info@theconsumervoice.org.