**Sample Ombudsman Newsletter Article**

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

**October 2021**

Reclaiming My Rights, My Home, My Life

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 “Reclaiming My Rights, My Home, My Life.” The theme acknowledges the impact of this past year on residents, and highlights the need for residents’ rights to be recognized, recovered, and reasserted. It emphasizes the recognition of the long-term care facility as the residents’ home, and the importance of residents reclaiming their own lives.

“This year’s Residents’ Rights Month theme focuses on raising awareness of federally mandated residents’ rights while also underscoring the need for dignity and self-determination of all residents.,” 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 with Consumer Voice. If you have questions, email info@theconsumervoice.org.