**Sample Ombudsman Newsletter Article**

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

**October 2022**

Inspiring Unity within Our Community

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.>**

Throughout the pandemic, residents of long-term care facilities were disconnected from the resident and staff communities within their facilities when activities and group dining were limited. Residents were disconnected from the broader local community when visitation was restricted and many residents were unable to leave their facilities to participate in outside activities. This year's Residents’ Rights Month theme - **Inspiring Unity within Our Community** - emphasizes the importance of fostering meaningful community within the facility and encouraging residents’ connection to their local community.

“Being a part of a community is essential to our well-being. This year’s Residents’ Rights Month theme focuses on building community within facilities and supporting connections for residents to the local community,” 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.