**Sample Ombudsman Newsletter Article**

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

**October 2024**

The Power of My Voice

Across the country, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities along with family members, Ombudsman program representatives, 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 (Consumer Voice), 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 program representative, you are encouraged to promote Residents’ Rights Month celebrations and events in your facilities. Visit 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 Ombudsman programs, 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.>**

Residents have the right to self-determination and to use their voice to make their own choices. This year's Residents' Rights Month theme, **The Power of My Voice**, emphasizes self-empowerment and recognizes the power of residents being vocal about their interests, personal growth, and right to live full, enriching lives.

“Residents’ voices are the most important at the decision-making table. This year’s Residents’ Rights Month theme empowers residents to raise their voices to express their likes and dislikes and fervently pursue the life they want to live,” said Lori Smetanka, Executive Director of Consumer Voice.

Thank you for working to make Residents’ Rights Month meaningful for all involved. Share information about your successes with Consumer Voice. If you have questions, email info@theconsumervoice.org.