



TO: Long-Term Care Residents, Activity Directors, Social Workers & Interested Others
FROM: The Consumer Voice
SUBJECT: The Resident's Voice Challenge 2014



The **Resident's Voice** is an opportunity for residents from facilities across the country to share their ideas about this year's Residents' Rights Month theme with other residents, ombudsmen, families, community members and nursing home staff.

Residents are encouraged to think about and respond to the following questions:

1. Why are adequate staffing levels in nursing homes important to you?
2. Describe a time when a staff person has gone out of their way to help you or made you feel special.
3. Describe a time when you raised a concern about staffing at your facility and your voice was heard.
4. What do you think should be done to ensure there is enough staff to provide good care to residents in all nursing homes?

Residents can respond to the questions in writing (poems, stories), through art of any kind or with video's/recordings. We encourage facilities/families to frame resident entries and hang them in residents' rooms or other areas of the facility.

Plus, we will be creating a calendar in honor of this year's theme! Send us photos of residents and staff along with quotes from the residents about what the staff members mean to them, and we may include your picture in our calendar for sale during Residents' Rights Month!

All submissions are due August 1, 2014.

National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month will be celebrated in October 2014. Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate! Information and materials for Residents' Rights Month celebrations will be available on the Consumer Voice website at www.theconsumervoice.org

Resident submissions will also be randomly displayed on the Consumer Voice and National Long-Term Ombudsman Resource Center websites in a section called “**The Resident’s Voice.**” Residents who participate will receive a certificate of participation. Please see the submission criteria and photo release forms.

Residents’ Rights Month is designated by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care and is celebrated in October each year to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub acute units, assisted living, board and care and retirement communities. It is a time for celebration and recognition offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident.

This year’s theme “Better Staffing: The Key to Better Care” is designed to call attention to staffing issues in long-term care.

Send entries electronically to info@theconsumervoice.org.

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