



NEWS RELEASE – Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

Release Date: Thursday, October 19, 2017
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

October is *National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month*, a time to learn more about the rights of individuals residing in our region's nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This year's theme – *It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices*, was selected to call attention to the respect and dignity of every resident. By listening to residents' voices and respecting their choices, we honor their lives and experiences, as well as treat them with dignity and respect.

During Residents' Rights Month, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (RLTCOP) would like to recognize our Agency's Ombudsmen who work tirelessly to promote residents' rights, assist residents with complaints, and provide information to those who need to find long-term care. Ombudsmen hear the residents' voices and advocate for their rights to be treated with dignity and respect and to make choices about their everyday lives. The AAA7 RLTCOP serves residents living in 96 nursing homes, residential care facilities and adult care facilities in our ten-county service area in rural Southern Ohio.

As we celebrate this month, I encourage community members to visit their friends and family living in a long-term care facility, participate in Residents' Rights Month events being held in many of our regions' long-term care facilities, and talk with us about becoming a Volunteer Ombudsman Associate. We need volunteers in each of our ten counties, but are particularly eager to find volunteers in Adams, Brown, Highland, Lawrence, Jackson, Ross, Pike and Vinton Counties. Individuals interested in becoming a Volunteer Ombudsman, please contact Mary Book, AAA7 RLTCOP Volunteer Coordinator, at 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail her at mbook@aaa7.org. To learn more about the AAA7's services, please go to our Agency's website at aaa7.org or learn more about us through our Facebook page.

Sincerely,

Kaye Inoshita, RN
AAA7 Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Director

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