Avenues for Advocacy

Happy National Volunteer Week- April 7-13th

Celebrate your facility’s volunteers and give them a big thank you from the LTCOP Staff! The LTC Ombudsman Program is happy to have four volunteers in our region who have completed their necessary training and make routine visits in their area. Each volunteer is assigned to one facility and together have provided over 1,150 hours of service since the program began in 2012. We are always looking for more volunteers and hope that we can expand our program. For more information, call Susan at 803-508-7056.

Thank you Lower Savannah Volunteer Ombudsmen
Aura Main, Bernice DeLoach, Hope Long-Weldon and Beverley Zigelman!

Looking Ahead...

May is National Older American’s Month!
To get more information on ideas for your home, go to https://acl.gov/oam/2019/older-americans-month-2019

June 15, 2019 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day!
Unfortunately, SC was ranked LAST in a 2018 WalletHub study in protecting seniors against elder abuse. Our Residents have a right to be FREE from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Find out more information about how you and your staff can protect your vulnerable residents and bring awareness to this problem by going to https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/weaad-home/.

Emergency Plan Updates
Regional Ombudsman are now required to know some elements of your disaster plan. A questionnaire will be sent soon.
NEW POSTERS!

During the April-June quarterly visits, you will receive new posters from the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman that are required to be posted in an area visible to residents, family, visitors and staff. Nursing Home posters have a blue block for contact information while CRCFs have a green block. **NOTE:** CRCFs- this notice DOES NOT replace the required Omnibus Adult Protection Act Poster.

The Halls Talk…

Unfortunately, the hall talk is including formerly reported issues and concerns. EVERY employee and volunteer contribute their own abilities, gifts and passion to make sure the residents know they are important, feel cared for, are given the help and encouragement needed to LIVE, not just exist in your home. Please:

- Be receptive to information from family and friends. They know personality, preferences and history best.
- Be creative in activities, approaches, communication and in finding solutions for a need.
- Take care of the small stuff- remember to make sure a resident confined to bed or in a chair have within reach their call light, phone, TV remote, etc.
- Get to know them as a person, not just as a task on a list.
- **Remember that food could be their only pleasure- make it taste good!**
- Remember that even a nonverbal resident can communicate because BEHAVIOR is a form of communication! It’s our job to learn what it means.
- Be passionate about your job and desire to provide the care to others that you would want.

Lower Savannah Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman
PO Box 850, Aiken, SC  29802
PH: 803-508-7033/ 1-866-845-1550 (TF) -- FAX: 803-335-1013

Advocating for residents in long-term care facilities in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties.