



The Beacon

A Newsletter for Long-Term Care Residents

March 2023

SOCIAL WORK MONTH

March is National Social Work Month. The LTCO honors all of the social work professionals working in long-term care facilities and we give a special shout-out to the social workers on the LTCO staff. All nursing homes are required to have social workers on staff. Social workers are there to assist you with any problems you might have. If you do not have access to a social worker, call the LTCO at 1-877-582-6995.

- “I became a social worker to help others; because everyone matters.”
Melissa Giannantonio, Investigations
- “I became a social worker to provide a voice for those who cannot advocate for themselves.” *David Quintero, Social Isolation Project/Investigations*
- “I became a social worker because my core values align with helping people who need a voice, advocacy and the tools to identify and manage their complex needs.” *Lea Hernandez-Vespe, Investigations*
- “I knew I wanted to be a Social Worker when I was in Boy Scouts when I saw a peer left out of a game because of his disability and I stood up and advocated for him.” *Jeff Findlay, Supervisor of Volunteer Advocate Program Field Operations*
- “I get to have a job where I can make a difference in people’s lives.”
Monique Turner, Social Isolation Project/Investigations

SPRING WORD SCRAMBLE

- essed _____
- oiwrabn _____
- blmoo _____
- nipgrs _____
- otacrain _____

Seeds, rainbow, bloom,
springs, raincoat



RESIDENTS’ RIGHTS CORNER

Nursing Home residents have many rights under Federal Law.

Finances – you have the right:

- To manage your own finances or to delegate that responsibility.
- To receive a written statement describing the services provided by the nursing home and the related charges.
- To receive a quarterly written account of all your funds and property that are deposited with the facility for your use and safekeeping.
- To have daily access during specified, reasonable hours to the money and property you have deposited with the nursing home.

If you believe that your rights have been violated, call our office for advocacy: 1-877-582-6995

SOUND OFF ON AGE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES



The New Jersey Age-Friendly Advisory Council would like to hear from you! New Jersey is a place for all ages; in order to promote inclusive communities for older adults, the council is holding two virtual listening sessions to hear from older residents and those who care for them about what the state can do to make your community a more accessible and inclusive environment.

To attend the virtual listening session, visit agefriendlynj.org and navigate to their news segment, or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/agefriendlynj and register for the either zoom or in person. You can also submit a written testimony to DoAS.AgeFriendlyNJ@dhs.nj.gov.

There will be two sessions:

Tuesday, March 14th 10am-12pm and Tuesday, March 21st 5pm-7pm

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



Clover, Irish, March, Coins,
Leprechaun, Rainbow, Green,
Luck

FREE TAX HELP AVAILABLE

AARP offers tax assistance to NJ residents who are 50 and older. Tax-Aide locations open in early February. You can visit a Tax-Aide office in person or check in virtually. You have seven options, most of which include filing electronically — the fastest way to get a refund. Search **AARP Tax Preparation** or visit:

<https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2023/how-to-get-free-tax-help.html>



New Jersey Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Laurie Facciarossa Brewer, LTC Ombudsman
www.NJ.GOV/LTCO

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1-877-582-6995
Guidance. Support. Advocacy.