



State of Kansas,

Sam Brownback, Governor

Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Belinda Vierthaler, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

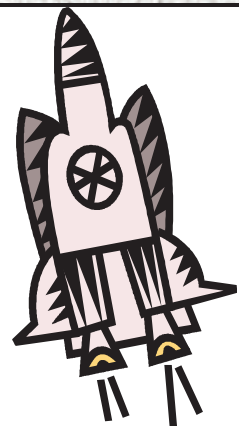
*Together we do. . .  
make a difference!*

**Mission Statement**

To advocate for the well being, safety, and rights of residents of Kansas long-term care facilities by assisting them in attaining the highest possible quality of life.

*Come orbit around  
with us at our  
Annual Conference  
April 28th and 29th  
at the  
Ramada Inn  
in  
Hutchinson!!*

*Mark your calendars now!*



Our Certified  
Volunteers go  
to infinity and  
beyond for  
our residents!







Fire at Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis  
Submitted by Velvet Johnson Region 6 Ombudsman

On October 19<sup>th</sup> the community of St. Francis turned out in droves to help the residents and staff of the Good Samaritan Village when fire swept through portions of the facility. The fire started in the attic resulting in significant fire, smoke and water damage to the building and its contents.

Students, staff, farmers, and community members responded to the nursing home's call requesting help to evacuate the residents. The St. Francis High School's gymnasium became the evacuation point for the 48 residents and 60 employees of the nursing home. The Certified Volunteer Ombudsman, John Finley, arrived as soon as possible to help. The local community pitched in to make the residents as comfortable as possible by providing food and any needed clothing. Fortunately, there were no physical injuries as a result of the fire. High school students and nursing home staff stayed with the residents until each resident was transferred to other nursing homes or family members picked them up.

As the Regional Ombudsman, I have had the opportunity to personally visit most of the displaced residents, and amazingly they all seem to be adjusting very well to their new homes. Most recall seeing huge plumes of smoke, but say the evacuation itself was very orderly and well organized. The common thread I heard from the residents is that they wish they were closer to home so family could visit more often. Some residents have had to move to a facility 150 miles away from St. Francis.

As I visited with the different residents in their respective new facilities, they all asked about their old roommates, table mates and neighbors and wondered where they were now located. In visiting with these residents, I asked if John Finley, the Certified Volunteer Ombudsman could send them a card and stay in touch. They all wanted to hear from him and they all had nothing but compliments and great things to say about John. They really miss him.

In closing, I want to thank John for his fine relationships with each of the residents. I would like to thank all the staff at St. Francis, the students, the community members, the fire fighters, the family members, and all others who helped to provide comfort, concern, and a smooth transition for each resident to a new location.

**Great news for the residents of Saint Francis Good Samaritan!**

**The Nursing Home will be rehabilitated in two phases, and a possible third phase might focus on expansion. By March 1st room for 22 residents will be restored; 32 rooms by May 1st. By May, 60 percent - roughly 35 or more of the jobs will have returned to the town of nearly 1,300.**

State of Kansas  
Office of the State Long-Term Care  
Ombudsman  
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**173-16**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

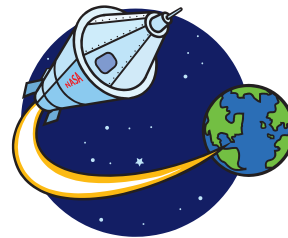
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Blast off  
To  
Hutchinson!!



Certified Volunteer

Ombudsmen  
go to the moon  
and back  
for our residents!

 **Save the Date!**

April 28th and 29th  
for our annual con-  
ference. Be looking  
for your invitation to  
fly into your mailbox  
mid- February.

See you there!!

RSVP Tanya 1-877-662-8362

**Don't Space Out!!!**

TURN IN YOUR  
MONTHLY ACTIVITY FORMS  
AND CASES TO YOUR  
REGIONAL OMBUDSMAN.  
YOUR EFFORTS NEED TO BE  
COUNTED!!

