



STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD ON AGING AND LONG TERM CARE

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Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

--Margaret Mead

A New Year of Growth, Opportunity, and Advocacy

Volunteerism is a concept we hear about on the news, in our community and in our social circles. It is the willingness of people to do "work" on behalf of others without being motivated by financial or material gain; bringing together a diverse range of people from all backgrounds and walks of life to help others in need.

The State of Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Program is an outstanding example of this concept. As a supplemental service of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, the Volunteer Ombudsman Program offers people the opportunity to give of their time, energy and talents to be an advocate for elders living in skilled nursing facilities in designated counties.

In July of 2008 the largest expansion in the history of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care began to unfold over the state of Wisconsin. With this expansion, the Volunteer Ombudsman Program increased the number of counties to be served from 11 counties to 30. This amazing expansion dramatically increased the number of residents who have the opportunity to receive our services. Along with this growth there will be an increase in outreach and education about the services provided by the Board on Aging and Long Term Care.

But without our indispensable volunteers, this expansion could not take place. Our ability to increase the accessibility of advocacy services depends on increasing the number of volunteer advocates throughout the new coverage areas and maintaining the current numbers in the established areas.

If you feel that you could give a few hours each week to be an advocate for our elderly in a local skilled nursing home, participate in a mandatory training, undergo a criminal back-ground check and make a difference in others lives, please call now for more information.

The Board on Aging and Long Term Care 1.800.815.0015

by: *Kellie Miller*
Volunteer Services Supervisor