

PRESS RELEASE

Call for Volunteers to Help Nursing Home Residents

Anderson and Henderson Counties, TX, November 9, 2016:

The Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman Program has immediate need for warm-hearted volunteers to help residents of nursing and assisted living facilities throughout Anderson and Henderson counties. Ombudsmen advocate for residents' rights including, but not limited to, dependable and consistent care and an environment that promotes the residents' dignity, self-determination, and communication.



Volunteer Ombudsmen also receive and investigate complaints made by, or on behalf of, residents or their families. Since many residents do not receive regular visitors or have close relatives, it may be difficult for them to enlist advocates. Ombudsmen serve as advocates for all residents, connecting them to their broader communities, affirming their rights, and assisting them in resolving concerns.

No prior experience is required to serve as a volunteer ombudsman, but volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and able to complete a free training course that consists of both classroom study and training at local nursing homes, lasting up to 36 contact hours. After training, volunteers serve an internship, working two to three hours per week in their assigned facility. Hours are flexible and are determined by each volunteer.

If you have two hours per week to make a difference in someone's life, please contact the Area Agency on Aging of East Texas, at 800-442-8845 or e-mail Valerie Rushing at valerie.rushing@etcog.org for more information.

About Area Agency on Aging of East Texas

The Area Agency on Aging of East Texas is designated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to coordinate services for persons in East Texas who are 60 or older, with particular attention to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas. Programs include, but are not limited to: Information, Referral and Assistance, Benefits Counseling/ Legal Assistance, Nursing home Ombudsman, Care Coordination, Caregiver Support Program and transportation provided by GOBUS. The Area Agency on Aging provides Nutrition programs delivering hot, nutritious meals to eligible homebound senior and providing congregate meals at local senior centers. The Area Agency on Aging is a program of ETCOG serving its 14 county region.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.