

PEER Graduation Ceremony

The graduation of PEER (Pennsylvania's Empowered Expert Residents) volunteers was held at Sugar Creek Rest August 25, 2011. The PEER Project is an initiative introduced by the State Ombudsman's Office to train Resident Advocates in long term care facilities to work from the inside to help resolve quality of care/life concerns on behalf of their peers.

The residents, Beverly Davis, Ruth Yount, Kevin Powell, Richard Carlton, and Henry Boehm, of Sugar Creek Rest and Betty Velazquez and Earl Hunt of Meadow Lake Manor, completed 5 training sessions before receiving their PEER badges, pins, and certificates. Families, friends, staff members, and dignitaries were present to celebrate the event.

Also attending were Janet Talerico, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Director; Patricia Adams, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman Supervisor; Randy Benkosky, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman; and Lauranne Smail, Volunteer Ombudsman for Armstrong County. Ten staff members from Sugar Creek Rest and Meadow Lake Manor also attended training and they also received certificates and pins at the ceremony.

Although the PEER Project is a statewide program, Sugar Creek Rest is the second nursing facility and Meadow Lake Manor is the first personal care facility in Armstrong County to participate.