

January 2010

Dear Friend of Ombudsman Services:

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[www.ossmc.org](http://www.ossmc.org)

Our program is celebrating 31 years of continual service to the frail and vulnerable residents in long-term care facilities in our county. Our state certified ombudsmen monitor 498 facilities with 9,515 residents. They make over 6,000 visits to facilities each year, receiving approximately 2,000 complaints made by or on behalf of the residents, investigating and bringing resolution to those complaints.

This is a program that has a vital history of resident advocacy -- unafraid to go beyond the usual parameters to find solutions to difficult problems. In addition, the program is a strong member of the extended community that works to combat elder abuse.

The senior population in the county is surging as the baby boomers approach retirement. The number of residents in facilities is expected to double within the next 11 years; we are anticipating increased demand for our services. Our challenge is to find a way to expand to meet those needs in these difficult economic times as we must learn to cope with the elimination of funding from the State and further cutbacks by the County as they struggle to meet their budget.

We ask if you would consider sponsoring our fundraiser event, **The Grape Escape: A Culinary Caper**, either through purchasing tickets at \$65 each or with a cash donation, or by donating an item for our planned silent/live auction. The event itself will provide an opportunity to taste the food and wine from some of our favorite local restaurants and wineries. Please review the attached form and consider helping us to make a difference in our community. In order for your name to be included in the program, we would need you to return the form by April 15.

Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Tippy Irwin  
Executive Director

