

Media Advisory – May 27, 2009

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

Volunteers still needed to assist vulnerable adults

Adults living in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities and adult family homes throughout Snohomish County are in need of community help.

More than 2,500 such residents lack a volunteer ombudsman, who can serve as an advocate, educator, investigator and problem solver on their behalf. Volunteer ombudsmen come from all walks of life, various age groups and educational levels. The common thread is a passion for older adults and persons with disabilities.

The Snohomish County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program will offer a four-day training session in Lynnwood on July 15, 16, 21 and 22 for those interested in becoming a volunteer ombudsman.

Volunteers must be present each day, and once certified, volunteers are asked to help four hours a week by visiting assigned long-term care facilities. Expenses such as mileage are reimbursable.

The Snohomish County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is part of a statewide program that protects the rights of residents living in long-term care facilities and empowers residents and their families to advocate for high-quality and compassionate care.

For more information or to register for training, contact Michal Glauner at 425-388-7393 or michal.glauner@co.snohomish.wa.us.

###