



**PRESS RELEASE
INFORMATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR ADDITIONAL

David S. Keller, Commissioner
Commissioners' Office
14 North Main Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-261-3812
dskeller@franklincountypa.gov

PEER Program Participants Graduate at Michaux Manor Living Center

June 20, 2018 – Chambersburg, PA – The Franklin County Area Agency on Aging conducts Pennsylvania's Empowered Expert Residents (PEER) training sessions at Michaux Manor Living Center located in Fayetteville, PA.

The PEER program encourages a partnership between residents and facility staff to work together to solve concerns before they become more intense problems.

"We're so pleased to have the participation of Michaux Manor's residents and the support of its staff. The PEER program helps to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our older residents," said Dave Keller, Chairman, Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

The PEER program trains resident advocates to work with facilities, staff, and residents to enhance quality of care and quality of life for their peers. The program was initiated in 2002 by the Pennsylvania State Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office in an effort to assist long-term care residents in volunteering their time and expertise to self-advocate issues that will resonate for their peers.

Program participants attend five two-hour training sessions which include topics such as "The Focus is on YOU," "Building Self-Resolution Skills," and "PEER the Sky's the Limit." There is also a two-hour session for facility staff to orient them to the PEER concept.

Following the completion of the training sessions, PEER participants have a graduation ceremony to celebrate completion of the program. The PEERs are awarded with a certificate, a starfish pin, a door sign, and a badge.

On June 14, 2018, seven participants graduated from the PEER Program at Michaux Manor Living Center.



PEER Program graduates, from left to right: John Feiser, Debbie Jo Freeman, Elaine L. Piper, Mary Jane Hensen, Carole Downing, Ann Benshoff, Parker H. Moore

For more information on the PEER Program, please contact Angie Pickel with the Franklin County Area Agency on Aging at 717-261-0631.

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