



Pete Ricketts, Governor

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Local Volunteer Saves Community Members Thousands

Lincoln, NE (March 4, 2021) - Medicare is a confusing topic. Information can be hard to find and mistakes can result in lifetime penalties. Nebraska SHIP makes it easier, providing local, unbiased, Medicare education and counseling to Nebraskans with Medicare through its network of volunteer counselors.

Linda Maly has been a Nebraska SHIP volunteer since 2002, helping the residents of Wahoo and the surrounding community with their Medicare questions throughout the year and during Medicare's open enrollment. During last year's open enrollment, Linda assisted 518 people. "Linda has been an excellent SHIP volunteer counselor, but has outdone herself this past year," says Nebraska SHIP Administrator, Alicia Jones. "Her efforts in Wahoo and the surrounding area produced a total combined savings of \$251,736.33 in prescription drug costs." Linda continues to help people with Medicare, their families, and friends, throughout the year to ensure they are maximizing their benefits, through one-on-one counseling or educational events in partnership with community resources. "Without the dedication of Linda, there is no way SHIP would be able to reach as many people in Saunders County as we do. When people are faced with a confusing topic like Medicare, having a trusted and dedicated local resource to turn to is priceless," continued Jones.

Medicare Open Enrollment takes place in the fall of each year, October 15 – December 7. During that time, people with Medicare are encouraged to review their Medicare coverage and compare their options for the next year, even people who are happy with their coverage should consider comparing, because plans can change their coverage and cost each year.

Nebraska SHIP will be providing two Medicare classes at the Learning Center at Wahoo, 536 N. Broadway St. in downtown Wahoo, on March 25 and on April 8, 2021. The first of these classes is *Welcome to Medicare*, providing information about Medicare's cost, coverage, and enrollment. The second class, *Navigating Medicare.gov*, will build upon the knowledge gained from *Welcome to Medicare*, demonstrating the use of tools people with Medicare have available to make informed decisions. Linda will be on hand to answer questions and provide support during these sessions. There is no fee for this education and registration can be done by contacting Nebraska SHIP at 402.471.2841 or toll-free at 800.234.7119.

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