



MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 19, 2010

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Volunteers Needed!

Northeast Florida– The SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) program is currently recruiting volunteers to help Medicare beneficiaries in several Northeast Florida Counties. **SHINE** is a Medicare and health insurance information, counseling and assistance program that reflects our commitment to put elders first, by empowering them to make informed decisions on health care issues.

Currently, there are over 400 dedicated **SHINE** volunteers statewide who provide services to elders, their families and caregivers. But, as the number of Medicare beneficiaries needing assistance increases, the need for volunteers increases too.

As a **SHINE** Volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to perform a variety of functions including providing information, counseling and assistance; making educational presentations to the community; distributing materials at health fairs, senior fairs and outreach events; and assisting with general program support. Volunteer assignments are matched to the skills and interests of each volunteer.

SHINE supports its volunteers with a statewide network of paid staff and volunteer coordinators. The Department of Elder Affairs provides training and technical assistance. Volunteers receive local mentoring and support from the area agencies on aging.

Requirements to become a **SHINE** volunteer include an interest in working with the senior population, competent computer skills, and the ability to use the Internet. Volunteers are also asked to attend professional training and update meetings.

The rewards for volunteer services are plentiful. Since the program's inception in 1993, **SHINE** volunteers have assisted Florida elders and their caregivers in saving millions of dollars, bringing them peace of mind to people who have had difficulty understanding and accessing health insurance options.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To request SHINE services or inquire about volunteer opportunities with SHINE in your community, contact:

1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337)
The Florida Elder Helpline

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, funded through a grant from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and operated in partnership with the state's 11 area agencies on aging.