

Porter County Aging & Community Services Inc.
1005 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, IN 46385

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NEWSLETTER

SHIP volunteers assist 166 individuals, available year-round for Medicare help

SHIP volunteers had the opportunity to assist 166 individuals during the open enrollment period that wrapped up Dec. 7.

The three volunteer counselors, located at the PCACS offices, logged more than 140 hours during the seven-week period.

Although the open enrollment period has ended, SHIP counselors are available all year to help with any Medicare issue or question.

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a free and unbiased counseling program provided by the Indiana Department of Insurance for Medicare beneficiaries in Indiana.

Throughout the year, SHIP counselors assist those new to Medicare as well as those who've been on it for years.

Assistance includes providing answers to common questions about Medicare, including: coverage, enrollment, eligibility and claims; explaining Medicare Supplemental (Medigap) policies and which companies sell them in Indiana; providing information on Medicare Advantage health plans and what plans are available where you live; and offering information about the Medicare prescription drug plans offered in Indiana and how to select the best one for your needs.

SHIP counselors also help Medicare beneficiaries with determining eligibility for any of the financial assistance programs that are available to help with Medicare costs, including prescription drug plan premiums and drug co-



Deborah Brann, left, and Ginger Brockwehl help coordinate the SHIP program along with Tom Murphy.

pays, Medicare Part B premium, Medicare Part A & B deductibles, and co-payments for doctor and hospital services.

Both SHIP counselors and PCACS staff can help with completing and submitting the applications to the appropriate agencies.

There is also Hoosier Rx, a state program which helps pay the monthly Part D premium for those with yearly income of \$17,475 or less (individuals) or \$23,505 (couples).

For more information on any of these programs, call the SHIP office at (219) 464-1028.

THANK YOU!!

We want to thank Melinda for her time with us in our transportation department!
She has moved on to greener pastures ... following her passion to work with wild horses on a farm in South Dakota.
"It's something that I've only spent the last few years learning about and I have very much enjoyed the learning process," she said earlier this year. "Taking riding lessons and hanging around a horse barn always make my day better." We wish her luck on her new adventure!



Join us on Facebook!

Like our page at www.facebook.com/PCACS!



For more information on the services provided by PCACS, contact:
Bruce Lindner, executive director,
via phone at 464-9736 or
via e-mail at bhlindner@portercountyacs.org.



PCACS is proud to be a member agency of the United Way of Porter County.

Energy Assistance Program

Appointments available; volunteers key to success

The Energy Assistance Program is in full swing as PCACS continues to assist individuals who need assistance with their energy bills.

The program is an income-eligible program that helps qualified participants who need assistance with their energy bills during the winter season. When participants qualify, the payment is electronically paid to the appropriate energy company.

The EAP team continues to take appointments to meet with individuals at the PCACS offices to complete the paperwork process.

With the program continuing through May, there are plenty of appointments and funds available to assist those who are in need.

As always, walk-ins are welcome for those individuals who have a disconnect notice or a pending disconnect notice. They will be seen on a first-come, first-serve basis at the PCACS offices, 1005 North Campbell Street in Valparaiso.

There is new documentation required this year for individuals who own their home. Accepted documentations are a tax or mortgage statement or deed. For those owning a mobile home, a tax or mortgage statement or a title is required.

Also, another update to the program this year is a change in showing sources of income. Those who worked need to have a wage inquiry form from a WorkOne office showing their sources of income from both Illinois and Indiana. Those forms can be obtained in person from a WorkOne location in Lake or Laporte counties.

A checklist of expected needed items and a Landlord Affidavit form are available at www.portercountyacs.org. Click on the "Forms" link at the bottom of the page.

To make an appointment with a member our Energy Assistance team or to inquire about needed documents, call (219) 464-9736 Ext. 1.

Thank you!

A dedicated group of volunteers helps the program run smoothly year after year.

Returning for a fourth season is Inge who is a familiar face during this time of year. Pam, Gail, Deborah, Lisa and Dorothea also volunteer their time to the program and community.



Our volunteers, from top, Pam, at left, and Gail. Middle: Inge, left, and Deborah. Bottom: Lisa, left, and Dorothea.

PCACS In Brief

Holiday help honors late wife, carries on wishes to make an impact

Gary James continues to celebrate his wife's spirit. For the second holiday season, James honored his late wife, Michele, (who died in 2014) by making significant donations to three families.

Valerie Martinez, housing director at PCACS, helped him find those families with children that would have had very little without his holiday spirit.

"He helped one family that he helped out last year. The other two were families that were having a really hard time. One was a single mother who just lost her job," she said.

"The other family has a spouse dealing with a serious illness and a mom working at a low-paying job."

James was first introduced to Martinez and PCACS while helping his parents fill out paperwork in 2014 at the PCACS offices.

"My wife and I wanted to help less fortunate people," he said.

"I honor my wife every day in many ways ... this is just what we wanted to do. It's what she wanted to do, so I do it. I do this for my wife and me and for the people we help.

"This honors my wife by following something she always wanted to do. I live by her example."

New roof

We appreciate the Korellis Roofing team for all of the hard work starting the installation of a new rubber roof on our building!

We are hiring!

We are seeking applicants for a full-time bus driver position. Benefits included are PTO time and retirement. Individuals who like people and have experience are preferred.



Top, Gary James and his late wife, Michele. Above, Korellis Roofing equipment at the PCACS offices.

A good driving record is required. Drivers must be able to work Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Interested individuals can pick up an application at our offices, 1005 North Campbell Street in Valparaiso, or call (219) 462-4302.