



Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options

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West Chicago Resident Receives National Award

Larry Bauer of West Chicago was one of 10 senior volunteers honored by the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) for their contributions as community educators and resources in the AoA's effort to detect, prevent and report fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

"Larry has been a volunteer with the Illinois SMP Program (Senior Medicare Patrol) for 14 months, during which time he has made extraordinary contributions," said Erin Weir, AgeOptions health care consumer protection coordinator and SMP statewide coordinator. SMP, which is administered by AoA and coordinated in Illinois by AgeOptions, recruits and trains older professionals to inform their communities on how to prevent, detect and report health care fraud, error and abuse.

"Larry uses his exceptional communication skills to provide engaging presentations about health care fraud to groups across DuPage County," Weir said. "His knowledge and creativity are vital assets to the SMP program. The SMP program staff at AgeOptions thank him for his work and dedication, and we congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award."

The awards were presented at the 10th SMP National Health Care Fraud Control Conference in Washington, DC. "I'd like to congratulate and thank the volunteers who are being recognized this year – and all of our SMP volunteers," Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Aging, said at the event. "The Senior Medicare Patrol program is a success because of their time, energy and unwavering commitment in the fight against health care fraud."

For information on SMP, or to report health care fraud, call AgeOptions at (708)383-0258 or (708)524-1653 for TTY users.

AgeOptions and its network of community agencies are the principal source of information regarding senior services in suburban Cook County, Ill. A nonprofit organization located in Oak Park, AgeOptions has served the older adults of suburban Cook County and their caregivers as an Area Agency on Aging since 1974. For more information, please visit the Agency website at www.ageoptions.org.

AgeOptions connects adults age 60 and over with resources and service options so they can live their lives to the fullest and remain in their homes as long as possible. In 2010 we met the needs of more than 198,500 individuals in 130 communities within 30 townships that have a diverse population of 460,000 older adults. AgeOptions advocates, plans, develops and funds programs and coordinates a network of community-based senior service agencies to ensure an effective and efficient system of service delivery. Support is provided through the Older Americans Act, Illinois General Revenue Funds, local funds and individual contributions.