

Testimonial Transcript: SHIP Volunteer Gary Schwartz

The rewards you get from the position, and to me, that's why I continue to do it. I worked at a university for many years, and then when I took early retirement, I decided to spend some time looking around to see what I wanted to do. And you know, I had a goal of having something that would be challenging intellectually for me, something where I could really make a difference in helping people, and something that has some variety. As I was doing that, I was visiting with a friend of mine, and he said, "Well, maybe I can help you with this." And so he gave me some suggestions and said, "You know, I think you might be interested in doing what I do as a volunteer." And so I sat in on three different sessions with him and thought this is very interesting.

I help people find their way through the Medicare system and all of the issues with Medicare. I help them find the information that they need to have so that they can make a good decision in their own personal situation. I find that my experience with SHIP is both challenging and exhilarating - to be a mentor, to be a part of the program - because I get to help people move forward from where they are, and I get great rewards from the people for helping them understand and enabling them to go ahead and make the decisions on their own.

State Health Insurance Assistance Programs. Available in your area. Local, unbiased, and trusted Medicare help. Visit www.shiptacenter.org for more information. Depending on your area, the SHIP program may also be known by one of these names.

This testimonial was supported in part by a grant (No. 90ST1001) from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official ACL or DHHS policy.