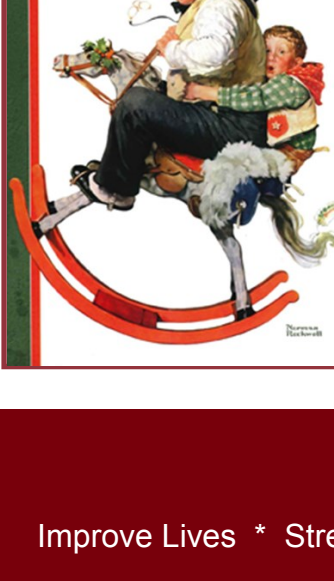


# RSVP Volunteer News

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Burlington County



December 2014



**The staff at RSVP of Burlington County wishes you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!**

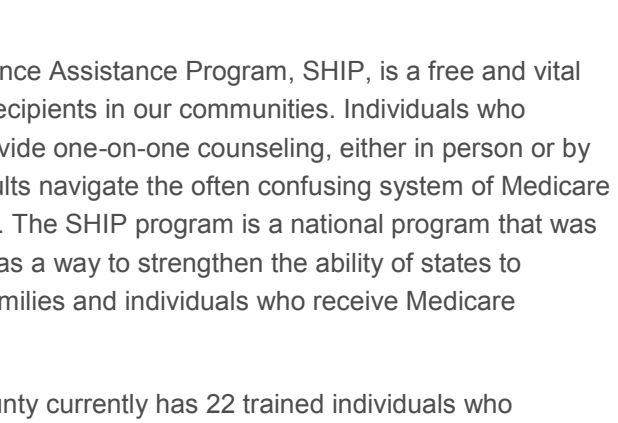


## RSVP

Improve Lives \* Strengthen Communities \* Foster Civic Engagement

### Station Spotlight

### S.H.I.P



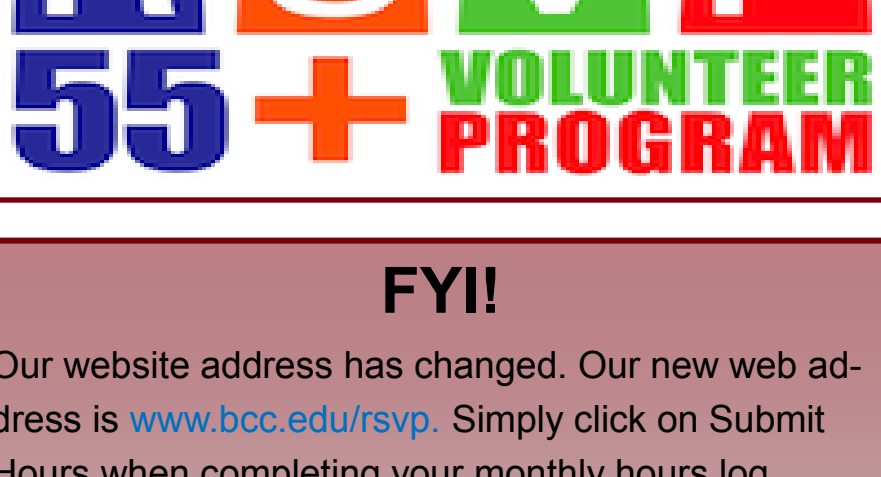
The State Health Insurance Assistance Program, SHIP, is a free and vital resource for Medicare recipients in our communities. Individuals who volunteer with SHIP provide one-on-one counseling, either in person or by phone, to help older adults navigate the often confusing system of Medicare and its ancillary policies. The SHIP program is a national program that was initially created in 1990 as a way to strengthen the ability of states to provide assistance to families and individuals who receive Medicare benefits.

RSVP of Burlington County currently has 22 trained individuals who volunteer for the SHIP program. Three volunteers serve as facilitators, coming to the RSVP Pemberton office to schedule client appointments and answer the many calls from people in need of support. Additionally, some SHIP volunteers provide community outreach, making the community aware of this free and valuable resource.

The Burlington County SHIP program sponsored two public events during the open enrollment period (October 15, 2014 through December 7). A presentation on Medicare 2015 updates as well as an event in Willingboro provided close to 100 individuals with personal assistance. Throughout the open enrollment period, our SHIP counselors, facilitators and outreach volunteers have been very busy and the RSVP program deeply appreciates their dedication during this time. Many thanks to our wonderful SHIP volunteers who commit their time and expertise in helping Medicare beneficiaries! You are providing an invaluable service to Burlington County.

If you or someone you know has questions or concerns about Medicare or Medicare supplemental policies, call SHIP at 609-894-9311, ext. 1494. A facilitator is happy to take your call and connect you with a SHIP counselor for help.

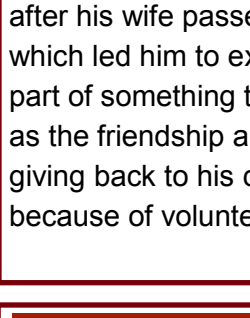
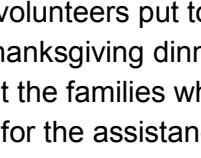
The RSVP Program has over 100 opportunities waiting for volunteers. If you know someone who may be interested in giving back, have them visit our website at [www.bcc.edu/rsvp](http://www.bcc.edu/rsvp) to submit an application or call RSVP at 609-894-9311, ext. 1583 for more information!



### FYI!

Our website address has changed. Our new web address is [www.bcc.edu/rsvp](http://www.bcc.edu/rsvp). Simply click on Submit Hours when completing your monthly hours log. For your convenience, you only need to submit hours once for the whole month; you do not need to do a separate entry for each day of volunteering!

### Volunteer View



**Jim Webre** has spent the last year and a half as a volunteer with St. Vincent De Paul in Medford. His role includes organizing the food donations in the food pantry as well as preparing bags of food for families in need. Jim explained that the holidays are a particularly busy time at the food pantry. He and the other volunteers put together bags with the complete makings of a Thanksgiving dinner, including turkey and all the fixings. He shares that the families who come in regularly for food security are grateful for the assistance. Jim began volunteering after his wife passed away and he felt the need for more interaction which led him to explore volunteer opportunities. Jim enjoys being part of something that provides happiness to those in need as well as the friendship and camaraderie found through volunteering and giving back to his community. Holidays are made more joyful because of volunteers like Jim!

### RSVP AWARDED MIPPA GRANT!

Millions of low-income older Americans struggle to pay their prescription, health care, food, and energy costs. **The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)** of 2008 has been instrumental in helping these disadvantaged seniors to regain their economic footing and live healthy, independent lives. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Burlington County has once again been awarded a grant to identify low-income older adults who may be missing out on these programs, and assist them with applying for Medicare Special Benefits Outreach and Enrollment Assistance.

RSVP is pleased to welcome Brenda Esaw-Howard to our office. Brenda will be a MIPPA Coordinator along with Frances Cirenza, who has prior experience serving with the MIPPA community. Brenda and Frances will provide outreach to the 65+ aged or disabled community to help them save on their Medicare and other related program costs.

If you or anyone you know would like to learn more, or see if you qualify for any extra benefits, please call Frances at 609-894-9311, ext. 1488 or Brenda at ext. 1051.

## RSVP

"one stop shopping" for anyone aged 55 and over who wants to find challenging, rewarding and significant service opportunities in Burlington County

### CONGRATULATIONS!

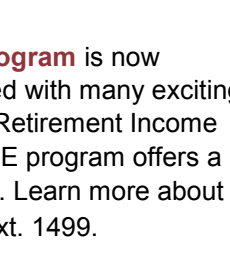
Roberta Sallee and Eleanor Gitto won our raffle for submitting their volunteer hours on-time from April 1-October! Thanks to Louise Kostrub for creating the beautiful centerpieces given as prizes. Stay tuned for future opportunities to participate in our raffles....eligibility will be based on timely hour sheet submission. RSVP cannot measure the impact you do without this obligatory accounting. We thank our volunteers not only for their service but for their loyalty to fulfilling program requirements!



## RSVP

offers maximum flexibility and a choice for service opportunities anywhere from a few hours to as often as you would like

### HIGHLIGHTS!



The RSVP office sends a big **THANK YOU** to **Ellen Nuckowski** for her years of service as an RSVP volunteer for both the State Health Insurance and Assistance Program (SHIP) and as a LIFE instructor. Ellen's weekly commitment to SHIP has facilitated hundreds of beneficiaries having problems or questions about their health insurance. We wish Ellen all the best in her retirement from SHIP and hope she continues to enjoy her affiliation with RSVP and LIFE!

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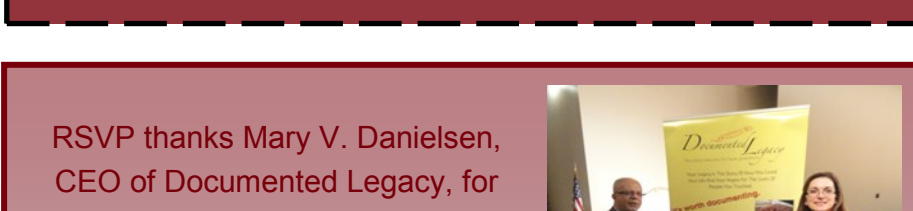
**The Spring 2015 course brochure for the LIFE program** is now available. The semester starts January 26 and is filled with many exciting opportunities, such as Water Workouts, Meditation, Retirement Income Planning, Women's History and much more! The LIFE program offers a broad range of classes for LIFE members aged 50 +. Learn more about LIFE at [www.bcc.edu/rsvp](http://www.bcc.edu/rsvp) or call 609-894-9311, ext. 1499.

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Burlington County RSVP Program, in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, will conduct two public information events in 2015. On January 30, **Know the Ten Signs of Alzheimer's** will emphasize the importance of early detection, and other necessary basics, including the ten warning signs. On February 6, **Alzheimer's-Understanding Behavior and Communication** will focus on the behaviors common with Alzheimer's disease as well as challenges and tips for connecting with people who have Alzheimer's. Both events will be hosted by the Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Blvd, Westampton and will take place from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Reserve your spot today by calling 800-272-3900. The presentation is free for RSVP members!

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If you belong to a community group, church group or other organization, RSVP is happy to provide a presentation on our many programs including **volunteering, SHIP, Money Management, LIFE, Take Control of Your Health** and much more! Contact Kim at 609-894-9311, ext. 1487 to request a presentation for your organization!

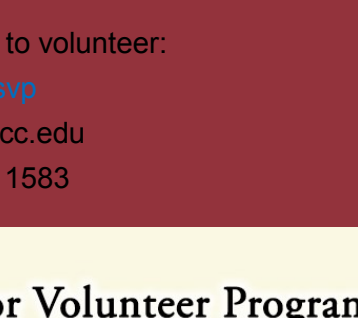


### TAKE THE WHEEL!

**RSVP is excited to be partnering with a new program called *Take the Wheel*. This service offers transportation to Veterans in need of assistance in getting to doctor's appointments, treatments and more. Contact RSVP at 609-894-9311, ext.1583 if you are interested in volunteering for *Take the Wheel*.**



RSVP thanks Mary V. Danielsen, CEO of Documented Legacy, for sharing her expertise on October 16. RSVP hosted the event as an added benefit for RSVP members. The volunteer attendees truly appreciated her advice on preserving our important documents.



## RSVP

Needs people to fill a variety of volunteer opportunities. Please share our program with friends and relatives! Let them know that we can match their experience, interests, and talents to provide them with rewarding experiences!

For more information and to volunteer:

[www.bcc.edu/rsvp](http://www.bcc.edu/rsvp)

Email: [rsvpoff@bcc.edu](mailto:rsvpoff@bcc.edu)

609-894-9311, ext. 1583



**Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Burlington County**

*Getting Things Done*

