



Pete Ricketts, Governor

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NR-2107

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## Local Volunteer Saves Thousands For Community Members

**July 20, 2021 (SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE)** – Medicare is a confusing topic. Information can be hard to find and mistakes can result in lifetime penalties. Nebraska SHIP makes it easier, providing local, unbiased, Medicare education and counseling to Nebraskans with Medicare through its network of volunteer counselors.

Brad Grier has been a Nebraska Certified SHIP volunteer since 2016, helping the residents of South Sioux City, Dakota County and the surrounding Nebraska communities with their Medicare questions throughout the year and during Medicare's open enrollment. Last year Brad assisted 50 people. Brad has been an excellent volunteer counselor and is self-motivated to stay updated on Medicare policies and regulations," says Nebraska SHIP coordinator, Bev Myers. Brad's efforts in the South Sioux area produced a total combined savings of \$21,429 in prescription drug costs during the 2020 Open Enrollment. He continues to help people with Medicare, their families, and friends, throughout the year to ensure they are understanding and maximizing their benefits, through one-on-one counseling or educational events in partnership with community resources. "Without the efforts and dedication of Brad, there would be no way SHIP would be able to reach as many people in the Dakota County area," continued Myers. "When people are faced with a confusing topic like Medicare, having an unbiased, trusted and dedicated local resource to turn to is so valuable."

An additional SHIP volunteer counselor was recently trained and certified in Dakota County. Amy Groth is a certified application/financial counselor at Siouxland Community Health Center in South Sioux City.

Nebraska SHIP will be providing a Medicare class at Northeast Community College-South Sioux City Extended Campus, 1001 College Way, on July 29, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. The "Welcome to Medicare" class provides information about Medicare's costs, coverage, and enrollment. Brad Grier and Amy Groth will both be available to answer questions and provide support during the session. There is no fee for this education and registration can be done by contacting Nebraska SHIP at 402-471-2841 or toll-free at 1-800-234-7119.

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Medicare Open Enrollment takes place in the Fall of each year, October 15 – December 7. During that time, people with Medicare are encouraged to review their Medicare coverage and compare their options for the next year, even people who are happy with their coverage should consider comparing, because plans can change their coverage and cost each year. Open enrollment assistance is offered by Nebraska SHIP by calling its toll-free line at 1-800-234-7119.

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