



Your support of Senior PharmAssist – as a donor or volunteer – makes life sweeter for many of our older neighbors. This happens in very tangible ways.

In a recent "[Geripal](#)" podcast, experts in palliative care stressed that palliative care should not focus only on relieving suffering related to serious illness, but also, focus on *preventing and treating illnesses* before they become serious. This a major focus for Senior PharmAssist. We work in partnership with others to prevent medication overload or other medication-related problems, while also ensuring access to essential medicines.

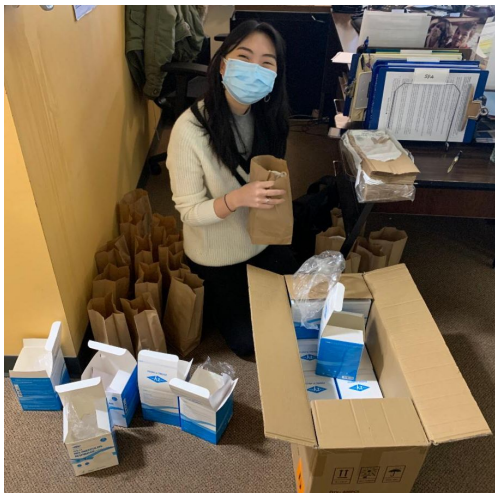
We do this by both providing Medicare insurance navigation services and by lowering medication copayments even further for Durham residents 60 and older with more limited incomes. This tangible assistance is never more evident than during the seven-week Medicare Open Enrollment Period at the end of *each year*. Our 2022 savings projections are just in and

the numbers have been *consistent and significant* since 2006! We helped **1,149** individuals with appointments during that period – in-person and via telehealth – and 584 of them were in stand-alone drug plans. **Fifty-two percent** of these individuals needed to change plans to save an average of **\$673** on their medications (\$341 median). Participants who were new to us are projected to save even more in 2022 - **\$798** (\$421 median). When we analyze the findings by the social construct of race, the mean drug plan savings projections for 2022 are \$991 for African-Americans and \$607 for Whites.

Of course, those in Medicare Advantage plans rely on our team – staff and wonderful volunteers – to make not only drug coverage but also medical coverage decisions. The savings noted above don't include the additional 220 pharmacist interventions to access drug manufacturer's programs, choreographing affordable solutions to complex medication discount systems, or our own direct financial assistance to lower medication copayments at local pharmacies. Food and transportation assistance, applications to help to pay medical bills, and support to enroll in Medicare savings programs were also critical interventions during the busy seven weeks.

We could not provide this practical help without your unwavering support – even in pandemic times. We just wanted you to know on Valentine's Day that your support of our work does indeed make life sweeter for others. It is better than any box of chocolates!

Gift Giving - Masks for Participants



We have recently begun distributing N95 masks to our participants who want them! We received 2,400 masks from the Durham County Public Health Department, which our participants appreciate. We have also been helping our participants order four rapid COVID tests for their households from the Federal government at no charge. This will help until [Medicare](#) begins covering them in the Spring. If you have not yet requested your household tests, you can complete the simple form [here](#), or call 1-800-232-0233.

Duke Chapel PathWays Intern Michelle
Kim hard at work packing masks for participants.

Love and Gratitude for our Volunteers

On a day that's all about love, we'd like to send a special thanks to our amazing volunteers! Our wonderful SHIP counselors provide high-quality Medicare insurance counseling and make an enormous impact. This year,

the following volunteers provided insurance counseling during Medicare's Open Enrollment Period: Peter Adland, Jay Barbaccia, Bill and BJ Boyarsky, DeLon Canterbury, Jim Drennan, Collette Driscoll, Bruce Hays, Anna Hung, Henry Luftman, Roslyn Muse, and Mackie Spruill, with administrative support from Marilyn Bailey.

We'd also like to give a special shout-out to David Farrell with People Designs, who has been hard at work setting up our new participant/provider/pharmacy database. He has been joined by recent new-comer volunteer

Penny Parsons who has helped translate the data into reports so we can track our progress. She had big shoes to fill after Al Stone "retired" as our long-time data-reporting volunteer guru! Pharmacist Jessica Visco and Operations Director Patricia Trull have been our staff database redesign leads; their attention to detail has made our work more efficient!

Our gratitude is echoed by our participants, one of whom recently shared: "You guys are doing things for me that make it possible for me to get the things that I need. You supported me and everything. **That's not me being sweet, that's reality.**"

Sharing Love for Pharmacy History

We are delighted to share our new "all-things-pharmacy" display in our waiting room! It features special items donated by the family of Ralph P. Rogers, Jr. Mr. Rogers collected items through the decades, including from his father's Rogers' Drug Co., in downtown Durham. It was there, working for his pharmacist father, that Ralph Jr. got a taste of his future career.

After serving in the military and attending both Duke and UNC-CH, Ralph Jr. went on to co-found NC Mutual Wholesale Drug Co., which continues as a successful pharmacist-owned company, focused on supporting independent pharmacies. We are so grateful to have these pieces of history. Please stop by to see them!

We send special thanks to the Rogers Family who have been amazing supporters for years, and who made this display



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