

HomeCare Options

The Community
Home Care Option
For Over 50 Years

Winter 2010

HomeCare Options Receives CVS \$15,000 Grant

HomeCare Options has received a \$15,000 grant from the CVS Caremark Charitable Trust. The money is earmarked towards the expansion of a medication management program for the agency's aging and often homebound patients.

"We are extremely excited to be selected by CVS for this charitable grant," says Ken Wessel, Executive Director of HomeCare Options. "The money will allow us to double the number of patients we can educate and help become compliant with their medications. This is critical with our population as one out of every seven hospital days is the result of medication issues at home."

HomeCare Options was one of 92 nonprofits around the country and four in New Jersey awarded a total of \$6.3 million from the Trust, whose mission is to provide funding for health care, education and community involvement initiatives in CVS Caremark communities. CVS Caremark is the largest provider of prescriptions and related health care services in the nation.

HomeCare Options' medication management program is designed to send RNs into the homes of people who need assistance with medication issues and reach out to their physicians so that patients remain compliant.

"Since many elderly people see different specialists, who may prescribe medications without full knowledge of what else their patient is taking, a medication management program can make a huge difference by reviewing drug usage, taking an inventory of drugs used and providing a computerized medication review printout," says Wessel.



Joseph Sidor poses with Virginia Statile, program coordinator, after being honored by HomeCare Options for his hours of service in the volunteer shopping program. To participate in the program, call 973-523-1224.

For more information on HomeCare Options' wellness services: Call 973-523-1224

Studies have shown that seniors take an average as many as six prescription drugs and three to four over-the-counter medications.

"Our program is intended to help educate patients on medication use and offer strategies to improve compliance," says Wessel. "This grant will allow us to reach many more people, and help prevent the adverse interactions that can lead to a range of serious symptoms and emergency room visits."

Caring Award Nominations Sought

HomeCare Options is accepting nominations for its annual "Caring Award." The award, introduced in 2004 to mark the agency's 50th anniversary, honors individuals in the community who are dedicated to helping others.

The award is given to an individual who has "selflessly and compassionately given of him or herself to improve the lives of others in Passaic County" either through their job or in community or volunteer work. Last year's recipient, 92-year-old Carmela Mitchell, was recognized for her volunteer work with homebound seniors.

Nominations, including name of the nominee, why they should be considered, and your name and telephone number, can be faxed to 973-523-5228 or emailed to kenwessel@homecareoptions.com. Deadline is April 15, with the recipient to be honored at HomeCare Options' annual dinner on April 29.



William Paterson University nursing students are flanked by their professor Dr. Connie Bareford (left), and Alexis Barry, HomeCare Options Director of Services, at the annual Memory Screening Day, hosted by HomeCare Options.

www.HomeCareOptions.com

