

Anne Gargano Ahmed
Henrietta De Boer Volunteer of the Year Award
To Theresa Osunero

Hello, everyone, my name is Anne Gargano Ahmed and I am an organizer with CCHCC and the coordinator of the Medicare 100/Plus Program.

I have the great honor to present tonight's first award, the Henrietta De Boer Volunteer of the Year Award. This award is given to the CCHCC volunteer who has really distinguished themselves over the past year by their outstanding work and commitment to the organization. This year, I am very pleased that we have chosen to honor Theresa Osunero. Theresa began volunteering with CCHCC almost 2 years ago after Yadira and I gave a talk in her Community Health class at the U of I.

Theresa is majoring in Public Health with a focus in Hospital Administration so we thought that the Medicare 100/Plus Program would be a good fit for her. The Medicare 100/Plus program is a collaboration between Provena Covenant Medical Center and Champaign County Health Care Consumers to provide discounted care for low-income Medicare beneficiaries in our community. It is truly an excellent program but there is quite a bit of administrative work that we must do behind the scenes to make the program work.

Right around the time that Theresa started volunteering for us, Provena made some changes to the program that literally doubled the amount of paperwork and administrative burden on us. I have no idea how I would have gotten through that without Theresa's help.

Theresa jumped right in and was quick to learn. While the paperwork can feel tedious at times, it is important to have patience and attention to detail to make sure that everything runs smoothly. Theresa quickly mastered all of steps of the process and has done such a good job that I feel completely comfortable having her come in and work independently when I cannot be there to supervise. She is also great on the phone, so if anyone here is a member of the 100/Plus Program, you may recognize Theresa's voice as one of the young ladies who calls you to tell you it's time to renew your card and what documents we need from you.

Over the past 2 years, Theresa has been a reliable and hardworking volunteer. Plus, on top of her weekly volunteer commitment, Theresa has taken time to support our fundraising efforts by helping make calls during our annual Phone-a-thon and participating in restaurant fundraisers. Theresa has also supported our community organizing efforts, and was one of many community members who attended the very long Champaign City Council Study Session on the groundwater ordinance that our 5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign is trying to get repealed.

Sadly, this is Theresa's senior year at the U of I and she will be moving on this summer to go off to grad school. However, with Theresa's dedication to public health, I am sure we are going to see great things from her in the future.

So, for all of her hard work and commitment, I am very proud to present Theresa Osunero with the Henrietta De Boer Volunteer of the Year Award.