

**Award:** Aimee Olson Advocate of the Year  
**Recipient:** Bela Shah  
**Presenter:** Jen Tayabji

At this time, I would like to ask Bela to join me on stage.

I am now pleased to present the Aimee Olson Advocate of the Year Award to Bela Shah! I am very lucky to have worked with such amazing volunteers this past year. The Aimee Olson Advocate of the Year Award is given to an individual that demonstrates a commitment to serving consumers and helping them receive access to affordable, quality health care through our client services.

One of our free client services is the Medicare 100/Plus Discount Program. This program is a collaboration with Presence Covenant Medical Center and is a free financial assistance program that helps low-income Medicare beneficiaries receive discounts on their out-of-pocket medical costs at Presence and several independent practices. Members can pre-qualify for the discount before they have any bills and the program allows our clients to have some peace of mind regarding their medical care and expenses.

Bela is a senior at the University of Illinois, graduating this May with a specialized major in Global Health. Like Simone, over the summer she completed a volunteer internship with CCHCC. She worked on several different projects, from research into upcoming local elections, to fundraising. But it was definitely her work as an advocate for the Medicare 100/Plus Discount Program where she made her mark.

She continued volunteering as the school year started, and she served a very integral role last fall as I transitioned into the coordinator of the program. She was such a great advocate and resource during this

transition that CCHCC hired her part-time to assist in maintaining the program.

She is so calm and patient with our Medicare 100/Plus members on the phone. Oftentimes, we are speaking to individuals who are trying to understand the complexities of Medicare, who may be facing medical bills and are having a stressful time. Bela has always been so great working with our program members.

Many of you here have probably spoken with Bela on the phone, whether it was time to renew your discount with the Medicare 100/Plus Discount Program or to tell you that your discount had been approved for another six months.

She has been a reliable and reassuring calming force with the Medicare 100/Plus program. I know that no matter where Bela goes, whether she works on local or global health issues, she is going to be a force to be reckoned with, and changing the face of public health for the better.

On behalf of the CCHCC Board and staff, I am proud to present Bela Shah with the Aimee Olson Advocate of the Year Award.