

Clean Team Workforce February Employee of the Month

By Stefanie Appel

ALLENTOWN, PA – The Clean Team Workforce congratulates its Employee of the Month for February, Cory L. At 14 years old, Cory lost his 12-year-old brother in a tragic drowning accident.

Cory's brother, Ryan, tried to rescue Cory, who was struggling in the water, and sadly lost his own life. Ever since, Cory has harbored guilt for his brother's death and has lived believing his parents blame him for the accident. When Cory was 17, he moved from Oregon to Florida to live with his aunt for three years. Eventually, he moved back to Oregon and lived with friends and family while working odd jobs to pay for rent.

But Cory's emotional struggles overwhelmed him, and he turned to drugs to cope with his pain. Last August, Cory recognized that he needed a change in his life. He left everything in Oregon behind and took a bus to Pennsylvania to visit a friend. Once here, his friend recommended the Allentown Rescue Mission, and thankfully, Cory took his advice.

At the Mission, Cory heard about its Transformation Program and wanted to enroll to learn more about himself, how to manage his emotions, and develop a relationship with God. He enjoyed the program's classes and, for the first time, felt hopeful for his future. After graduating from the Transformation Program, Cory was eligible to be hired with the Clean Team Workforce and started working immediately. He began street cleaning but was quickly offered a job disassembling appliances and equipment at a metal recycling company.

He breaks down items into component pieces and separates the metals. The work isn't easy, and the weather this winter has been hard, but Cory is just as tough. He shows up on time, every day, and is willing to get dirty and work his hardest.

Cory isn't sure what the future holds, but he knows God has a plan for him. "I'm just focused on the present right now. I want to keep working and save as much money as possible," he said.



By Senator Lisa Boscola

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging is reminding older adults that the annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is now open until March 31. During this time, beneficiaries who currently have a Medicare Advantage plan can switch to a different plan or to original Medicare. Changes to their enrollment will take effect on the first of the month following the month in which they enroll.

Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI) – the Commonwealth's Medicare counseling program – is available through the 52 Area Agencies on Aging to help beneficiaries with Medicare questions, including the Northampton County AAA. Older adults can receive unbiased, no-cost Medicare assistance from trained PA MEDI counselors who can walk them through their options to assist in making informed health insurance decisions that optimize their cost savings and access to health care and benefits.

Medicare Advantage is a Medicare-approved plan from a private company that offers an alternative to original Medicare for health and drug coverage. These "bundled" plans include Part A Hospital Insurance, Part B Medical Insurance, and usually Part D Drug Coverage.

PA MEDI counselors do not sell Medicare insurance products, nor do they endorse any insurance company, product, or agent. Counselors will not recommend policies, companies, or insurance agents but will provide free, confidential, and unbiased personalized assistance.

For more information, please call the toll-free PA MEDI Helpline at 1-800-783-7067 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Medicare Advantage Enrollment January 1 to March 31

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1-800-783-7067

Call the PA MEDI Helpline,
Monday - Friday, 8AM - 5PM

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