

'Options for Senior America' opens new office in Bel Air

By Pamela Mones, editor

Options for Senior America, a non-medical home care agency that assists seniors in their homes, recently announced that it will be celebrating 15 years in the business and it has opened a new office in Bel Air.

Since its modest beginning in 1989, the agency has grown to include offices in Maryland, Virginia, the D.C. metropolitan area, as well as areas of Atlanta, Ga., and Cleveland, Ohio.

Cynthia Ward, senior coordinator, and Stephen Lee, branch manager, were on hand in their new office in Bel Air, eager to work with Harford County seniors and their families, who prefer to stay at home but may need some non-med-

ical-related assistance to do so.

"An important part of my task is in match-making," said Cynthia. Somewhere in our roster of caregivers is the right companion or nursing assistant for each care recipient. It is my task to make sure that my office performs well at that level, each and every time."

To do so, Cynthia said she networks with social workers and other health care professionals when a person is being discharged from a health care facility to ensure that each elderly person "who wants to stay at home is matched up with just the right aide."

Aides are trained to assist the care recipient with a range of activities, from personal hygiene needs, meal preparation, and housekeeping chores, to compan-



Cynthia Ward, senior coordinator, and Stephen Lee, branch manager, are pleased to be serving the Harford County community of seniors, enabling seniors to remain at home while receiving non-medical assistance.

ionship. Some only need a part-time helper, while others may need assistance round-the-clock and seven days a week, she said.

Options for Senior America estimates it has taken in over 30,000 requests for assistance out of its 10 offices.

Fees are based on level of

assistance required, but Stephen Lee said that some types of long term care insurance cover the service, although Medicare, at present, does not.

Options for Senior America's Bel Air office is located at 212 S. Bond St. and can be reached by calling 410-893-9914.