

Nonprofits for Older Adults Merge to Form Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia

Angela Woolsey February 23, 2021 at 2:30pm



The Shepherd's Center that serves Oakton, Vienna, Reston, and Herndon is no more.

The local nonprofit organization, which provides services to older adults, has merged with an affiliate in Great Falls to form the [Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia](#) (SCNOVA), the new organization's interim executive director, Jayne Young, announced on Feb. 15.

Young says the Oakton/Vienna/Reston/Herndon [Shepherd's Center](#) and [Shepherd's Center of Great Falls](#) started exploring options to improve their reach and efficiency several months ago, as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced nonprofits to reevaluate how they deliver services.

"Certainly, the pandemic has challenged us to find new ways of tackling most anything you can think of," Young said [in a letter](#). "For our Shepherd's Center, that included taking a look at the way we meet our mission so we ensure that we continue delivering impactful services as efficiently as possible."

The merger will give clients from the smaller Great Falls center access to more services, while combining the resources and volunteer networks of the two organizations, which are both affiliates of the [Shepherd's Centers of America](#).

Young says all Great Falls volunteers and clients will be transferred to SCNOVA, which will operate out of the existing Oakton/Vienna/Reston/Herndon facility at 541 Marshall Road in Vienna. Free transportation services will also still be provided to seniors in Great Falls.

The full transition is expected to be completed on Sunday (Feb. 28).

Founded in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna expanded to include the Reston and Herndon areas in 2019.

The nonprofit assists adults 55 and older with free transportation to medical and therapy appointments, food pick-up and delivery, minor home repairs, and health counseling and referrals. It also offers educational classes, luncheons, caregiver support groups, and other community programs.

"We are excited to begin 2021 with such good news!" Young said in her letter. "Working together, we hope to provide even better and more impactful services to seniors in Northern Virginia."

Image via [Google Maps](#)