



July 7, 2022

Dear Friend,

We hope our Shepherd's Center family and friends are enjoying these summer months. Summer is the traditional time to slow down and enjoy the sun, outdoors and pursue adventures where they can be found. Summer is also a season for gatherings and re-connections. We here at SCNOVA are working diligently to ensure our clients, participants and supporters stay connected with needed services and programs.

This year has brought some unique challenges and blessings. Our first challenge continues to be COVID-related. *Because of you...* we have been able to successfully navigate new ways of meeting the needs of our community. Transportation remains our largest service and we know that every ride is important and deserves to be filled. Our data tells us that COVID did not affect the volume of transportation requests but did affect the number of volunteers that were available to drive. Because of our committed supporters we have been able to fill **94%** of all ride requests. Our goal is to continually increase our capacity so every request is met. Your participation is vitally needed to help make this happen.

*"The stress of no transportation is horrible. Shepherd Center has saved me from having to cancel medical appointments."
PB, Client*

The second challenge is inflation. As we all know, prices recently topped \$5/gallon for gas. Rising costs are an unanticipated expense for SCNOVA and our volunteer drivers. As reported in our Summer Newsletter, we were fortunate to receive a small donation to supply gas cards for high volume drivers (over six round trip rides a month). This program was a huge success. Would you please help us fund these and other opportunities that serve clients and encourage more volunteer drivers to participate?

Because of You we continue to foster individual well-being and independence for older adults. We offer unique and engaging Adventures in Learning enrichment programs, Tai Chi and Active Wellness classes, Lunch n Life programs, Bingo Nights at Foster's Grill, Caregiver Support Groups and will hold a Pickleball Mixer and Fundraiser in October. **Thank you** for helping us create meaningful opportunities for social connectedness in keeping with the SCNOVA mission.

JOIN US IN OUR VISION TO TRANSFORM AGING INTO AN EMPOWERING EXPERIENCE TO LIVE A LIFE OF MEANING

**2021 SURVEY DATA
98% OF RIDERS SAID THE VOLUNTEER RIDES PROGRAM PROVIDED AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR THEM**

92% OF RIDERS SAID THEY RECEIVED EXCELLENT SERVICE FROM THEIR DRIVERS

100% OF DRIVERS SAID THEY FELT GOOD ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

Would you please consider a donation to the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia at this time? To make a secure donation online please visit our web site: www.scnova.org/donate/donate-appeal or use the enclosed remittance envelope. We are committed as a community to all come together to transform aging into an empowering experience to live a life of meaning.

Sincerely,

W. Scott Schroth, Board Chairman

Carolyn Pennington, Executive Director

Honored to be named "one of the best nonprofits" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy DC.



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