

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER EARNS DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL AWARD FOR SERVICE

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Shepherd's Centers of America (SCA) announces Jayne Young with the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA) the recipient of the 2022 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award.

The Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award recognizes exceptional volunteers with the SCA Network for their service in helping older adults lead meaningful lives through connection with each other and their community. This is the only national volunteer award recognizing older adults in service to communities to help older adults age with dignity, meaning, and purpose.

"Volunteers are the backbone of Shepherd's Centers," says Sarah Cheney, Executive Director of SCA. "Without volunteers, we would not be able to deliver our mission to create meaningful opportunities for service, lifelong learning, individual well-being and independent living designed by, with and for older adults."

Young has served continuously with Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia for 12 years. "She always seems to know how to hit the right chord in meeting the needs of both our participants and volunteers," says Scott Schroth, Chair, SCNOVA Board of Directors. "Her leadership has been instrumental in our ability to grow our organization and reach new communities."

Young's commitment to SCNOVA was obvious to the review committee of this prestigious award. One reviewer commented, "Jayne's dedication to the mission is profound, and she is an inspiration to all."

Forty-three percent of older adults report feeling lonely and isolated before the pandemic, and this has increased significantly. But SCNOVA adapted programs to offer enriching classes and social opportunities online as well as essential transportation, food, and friendship to those in need. "It's this determination to deliver on its mission and ensure older adults are connected to their community that makes SCNOVA an effective, leading nonprofit," says Cheney. "They are changing lives."

Annually, the Shepherd's Centers Network of 55 centers supports more than 155,000 older adults and contributed more than 752,700 hours of volunteer service. The estimated value of these services is \$21.4 million, based on the Independent Sector's value for volunteer time.

About Shepherd's Centers of America

Headquartered in Kansas City, MO, Shepherd's Centers of America is a network of faith and community-based organizations serving older adults and promoting service to others. Founded in 1972 by the late Rev. Dr. Elbert C. Cole, Shepherd's Centers are one of the first organizations in the nation to advance the health and well-being of older adults in ways they value most.

About the Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award

Don Smith served as a volunteer and board member, including chair of the board, with Shepherd's Centers of America for many years. In recognition of his leadership nationally and locally in the Kansas City area, this award recognizes excellence in volunteerism and commitment to the mission of Shepherd's Centers that empower older adults to live healthy, happy lives. The national review committee for this award is comprised of Shepherd's Center representatives, national experts, and community volunteers who champion the mission of Shepherd's Centers.

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