

For Immediate Release:

October 22, 2025

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MEDIA RELEASE

October 22, 2025 SCNOVA celebrated amazing volunteer Wolfgang Sherer as the 2025 recipient of the Donald Owen and Katherine Horridge Smith National Volunteer of Excellence Award. Hosted via satellite by Aging Forward Alliance affiliates honoring volunteers across the country.

The Donald Owen and Katherine Horridge Smith National Volunteer of Excellence Award carries forth the legacy of the Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award, first established in 2014. While the original award recognized one outstanding volunteer, this expanded program now honors one exceptional volunteer each year from every Aging Forward Alliance affiliate. This program celebrates the many dedicated individuals who embody the spirit of giving, inspire others, and help make our communities better places to live. Each year, honorees are inducted into the prestigious National Gallery of Volunteer Excellence, showcasing their remarkable achievements and underscoring the invaluable role of volunteers in advancing healthy aging with purpose and meaning.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia is proud to present this honor to Wolfgang Sherer. Wolfgang began volunteering with The Shepherd's Center in the spring of 2020 after his retirement. Anyone who knows Wolfgang quickly comes to recognize his kind, thoughtful, and compassionate character. All of us here at SCNOVA (staff, BOD, participants and other volunteers) are fortunate to have gotten to know him in the past five years. Wolfgang not only drives for The Shepherd's Center but volunteers for the Congregation Advisory Council, helped move and set-up when SCNOVA moved locations, and is also a handy helper volunteer.

As a volunteer driver, Wolfie has given over 3,175 hours and has driven over 9,770 miles. At 60 mph, that's about 190,000 miles behind the wheel – nearly 8 times around the earth. Wolfgang's gift is in his genuine connection with participants and making true friendships. He remembers their families, their stories and concerns and he cares deeply about their wellbeing. These are all qualities that will not show up in numbers.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia is dedicated to improving the quality of life for older adults in the communities it serves through supportive programs and services, personal enrichment, and volunteer engagement, enabling our senior neighbors to live full and productive lives while aging in place. Our hundreds of trained and vetted volunteers serve as transportation drivers, friendly callers and visitors, handy helpers, and lifelong learning enthusiasts.

Please be sure to like us on Facebook (The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia), Instagram (@Shepherds_Center_Nova), and LinkedIn (SC NOVA). SHARE so others can learn about the services we offer! To volunteer, donate, or learn how you can help, visit <http://www.scnova.org> or contact the office at 703-281-0538.