

National Gallery of Volunteer Excellence

SCA 2024



Introducing SCA's National Gallery Toolkit

Welcome to a celebration of selflessness, dedication, and community impact! The Shepherd's Centers' National Gallery Toolkit is a tribute to the remarkable individuals who embody the spirit of service and compassion within the Shepherd's Centers community.

In these pages, you'll discover the heartwarming stories and impactful contributions of volunteers who have dedicated their time and talent to enriching the lives of older adults across the nation. From ordinary beginnings to extraordinary achievements, their journey exemplifies the essence of community engagement and empowerment.

At the core of this toolkit lies the prestigious Donald Owen and Katherine Horridge Smith National Volunteer of Excellence Award. This award, an expansion of the esteemed Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award, symbolizes our profound gratitude for the tireless efforts of our volunteers. It recognizes not just one, but numerous exceptional individuals from various affiliates who have made an indelible mark in their communities.

As we reflect on the visionary leadership of Founder Dr. Elbert Cole and the invaluable contributions of Volunteer Leaders Donald Owen and Katherine Horridge Smith, we honor the legacy they have bestowed upon us. Their spirit of generosity and commitment to service continues to inspire generations of volunteers, leaving an enduring legacy of compassion and kindness.

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the SCA Network, this enhanced volunteer recognition initiative marks a significant milestone in our journey. Through induction into the National Gallery of Volunteer Excellence, we pay homage to the countless volunteers who have dedicated themselves to making our communities vibrant, inclusive, and supportive for older adults.

Join us in celebrating these remarkable individuals who embody the essence of volunteerism and community service. Together, let us continue to create meaningful connections, foster opportunities for growth, and build a brighter future for all.



Every year, volunteerism in the United States generates over \$100 billion in economic activity. However, volunteer hours served have been declining steadily for 20 years. Volunteerism among older adults has been comparatively resilient. As a result, the share of total volunteer hours accounted for by the 65+ population grew from 18.5% in 2002 to 28.6% in 2021 (most recent data available). This increase in share has occurred despite rising labor force participation of the older adult population and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Honorees

The following pages highlight the SCA Network Affiliates' Honorees. Please print your affiliate's information and share with your press release.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



JEAN BASTIEN

Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia, Oakton, Virginia

Jean Bastien has been the singular beating heart of the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia for nearly 25 years, indeed, virtually since our founding in 1998. How is it that we can describe her in this way?

Well, responding to a request for a volunteer with computer skills in 1999, she began to work in the staff office where she quickly became the database manager and webmaster for the organization-roles that she has held without interruption ever since.

Jean, designing and maintaining our website, managing our volunteer and donor databases, and generally serving as a computer technical expert in the office has been critical to the success of the organization over our quarter century of service to Northern Virginia. She has been recognized by SCNOVA with our Volunteer Achievement Award and our lifetime service award (The Ed Lowry Award). She has also been recognized by the Town of Vienna for her volunteer commitment to the community. She is forever available, patient, and thoughtful. Generations of office managers and Executive Directors have relied on her unwavering support.

She has conservatively provided over 12,000 hours of volunteer work for SCNOVA, valued at nearly \$300,000. No one in our history even comes close to this level of service. Jean stands alone. I think I've said enough. Jean, a quiet and humble person, would be embarrassed if we went on with further accolades!

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



TOM CALLANEN

Shepherd's Center of McLean, Arlington,
Falls Church, Virginia

Tom Callanen was raised in Falls Church and moved in 1975 to McLean where he and his wife Susan Snell have lived since. His career was entirely with the CIA, where he served in a variety of analytical and management positions for over 44 years. He joined Shepherd's Center of McLean, Arlington, Falls Church (SCMAFC) in May 2017 as a volunteer driver.

Since 2017, he has averaged giving 30-50 rides per year. He has served as a Ride Coordinator, newsletter editor, and management committee chair. In 2018 and 2019 he took on special projects such as organizing and conducting an extensive survey of our clients, and another to improve our driver insurance coverage. He joined the board in 2020, serving the past two years as its Chair.

Since becoming Chair, Tom has focused his time and energy on strengthening our "people." He has spent many hours talking to existing volunteers, encouraging them (with remarkable success) to step up and contribute their time as committee chairs and committee members. He typically takes the soft approach of meeting them for lunch or coffee. Then, in that or successive meetings, he learns enough about their skills and interests to suggest positions he thinks will appeal to them. His instincts are typically right on and the matches he creates are solid.

Working with others at the Center, Tom has established a more consistent regimen of recruiting new volunteers through notices in local newspapers and websites. Again, he often uses a personal approach once a potential volunteer has expressed interest to ensure that the potential volunteer becomes an actual one. In pre-Covid years, we added 28-29 new volunteers a year. Those numbers fell to 16 new volunteers added in 2021 and 19 in 2022. In 2023, 36 new volunteers have joined SCMAFC thanks to Tom's more consistent, systematic approach.

Tom is a "people person." It is important to him to know and understand the volunteers he interacts with, and to make them feel needed and appreciated.

At the same time, he has focused on the management side of the organization. He created a cloud-based file system so that board members can share documents. He has continued the tradition of asking committee chairs to submit written reports so there is documentation of our efforts. He has pursued grant opportunities with local funders to provide a strong financial base. His two-year term as Chair ended in December 2023. He has left the board considerably stronger than when he assumed its leadership.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



WAYNE CHAPMAN

LifeQuest of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas

Since Wayne Chapman's first LifeQuest class in 2018, he has consistently enriched our organization with his unwavering dedication and multifaceted contributions. Despite being a relatively recent addition to LifeQuest, Wayne, as a class instructor, video producer, actor and director, has made a positive impact on our people and organization, inspiring his students to share his passion for various forms of artistic expression such as music, ballet, contemporary dance, acting and theatre.

Wayne's impact extends beyond his role as an instructor; he also plays a pivotal role in the leadership of LifeQuest, serving on the Curriculum Committee (formerly known as the Adventures in Learning committee). When asked about his motivation for volunteering at LifeQuest, Wayne expressed, "The opportunity to share what I have learned about theatre, dance, and music with my peers gives me such great joy."

Hailing from Fresno, California, Wayne Chapman earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in performance of literature from the University of Arizona. He furthered his academic journey by obtaining a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from the University of Utah. While on the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Wayne's excellence in teaching garnered him the university's Excellence in Teaching Award. At LifeQuest, we are honored to draw from his teaching acumen along with his experience in acting and directing numerous plays for college and community theatres.

Beyond the stage, Wayne has made a mark in the world of media, creating, and directing over one hundred TV and radio commercials. In 2022, he utilized his background to produce a captivating promotional video for LifeQuest.

Wayne's teaching journey at LifeQuest commenced with a class on the Ballet Russes sparking an interest in ballet and other dance styles among LifeQuest members. Classes such as "Mind and Mindfulness," "From Country to Opera," "Embracing Poetry," and "Shakespeare Transformations" (and more!) showcase Wayne's versatility and commitment to teaching about a wide variety of artistic forms. When LifeQuest transitioned to an online-only curriculum in 2020 due to the pandemic, Wayne, equipped with media technical skills, promptly stepped-up to continue teaching by reaching LifeQuest participants online across the state.

In addition to teaching, Wayne's dedication shone brightly this past year in a project directing the play, "The Octette Bridge Club." Over nine months, Wayne and his class met frequently, delving into acting, theatre production, set design, costumes, and props. The result was a stellar performance attended by over 150 guests. Many of the play's crew, all LifeQuest members and theatre novices, trusted Wayne's vision and direction for their first-ever experience in a theatre production.

Wayne Chapman's tireless commitment, passion, and leadership have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on LifeQuest, making him a deserving candidate for the Volunteer Excellence Award. His ability to inspire, educate, and lead sets an example for the entire LifeQuest community.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



LINDA DANFORD

Shepherd's Center of Greensboro, North Carolina

Upon assuming the role of Executive Director at The Shepherd Center of Greensboro, the timeline was outlined: a two-month wait before witnessing our mission and star program in action with the commencement of the Adventures in Learning semester. The initial class visited was Women in Ancient Rome, led by Linda Danford, captivating a crowd of 50 individuals in the church sanctuary with her expertise and presentation style.

Linda is a retired professor of the classics at University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and became a volunteer instructor with us 12 years ago at the request of our AIL program chair (who was also a professor at UNCG). Whether the topic is ancient architecture, arts, forms of entertainment in ancient Greece, or the lives that shaped forms of government...her students (many of whom are also retired teachers) love her and we are fortunate that Linda loves the mission and work of Shepherd's Center. In her speeches about AIL she always highlights the joys of teaching elders who are attentive, have great questions and love lifelong learning.

In 2015 she joined the Board of Directors, serving two terms with many roles (in development, goal planning, finance, leadership, cheerleading) including President for 2 years and as Past President for 2 years, during one of our greatest periods of growth and stability. She gave speeches, acted as liaison for two of our strongest church partnerships, raised funds from friends and fans, and thoroughly loved the role of leader.

One of my favorite Linda-taking-charge events happened when a long-time student of SCG classes passed and we learned that Kathryn had left a generous bequest for us in her will. In talking about how we could honor this music professor, Linda contacted the retired professional organist at the church where our classes are held, and they designed a musical performance in honor of Kathryn and invited all 180 participants to join in a performance of Kathryn's favorite pieces during our day of classes. It was grand!

Nearing the end of her second Board term, just as it was time to step off the board, she arrived in our office and told our staff and volunteers that it was time to move our offices to our homes and cancel our bus trips, spring classes, and in-person services...Covid had arrived and her doctor son had filled her in about the massive number of his hospital's patients who were seniors. Linda stood beside us as we returned fees to our participants, contacted key supporters, learned about Zoom options, and planned to shift and pivot. She helped us get through such a dire period in a nonprofit service challenge.

After a one-year Board hiatus she was invited back to the Board this year since there are many new members who need Linda's agency knowledge and history to plan for SCG progress. Linda is always there when we need her, supporting and recognizing the work done by staff and volunteers. She genuinely loves older adults and lights up their faces with her caring. She exemplifies servant leadership in her faith community, represents her love of lifelong learning, and continues to advocate for the power and purpose of elders. We are so fortunate to have her talent and support on the Shepherd Center team.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



BECKY ENTENMANN

Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood, St. Louis,
Missouri

“Volunteering reveals to me that even small efforts can make a change in my life and in the lives of others in ways I never expected. I so often feel I receive far more than I give.” Becky’s quote defines her work at Shepherd’s Center and beyond. She became a volunteer driver in 2017 after engaging with us through her husband who is a volunteer and board member. In 2019, she began to work in the office as a special project volunteer.

Becky’s attributes include research, writing, communication, leadership, and compassion. Sharing those talents in a variety of ways, she contributed to the success of our 25th anniversary this year by chairing the decorating committee, compiled facility and referral resources for older adults within the community and researched local philanthropy for volunteer recruitment and fund-raising possibilities.

One of her most memorable and rewarding jobs became the foundation of what is now our popular Technology Empowerment for Adults service. Becky developed a resource booklet in 2021 connecting older adults to internet access, technological devices, and computer literacy. This service continues to help hundreds of underserved clients navigate the world of technology.

Becky also enjoys socializing with staff and fellow volunteers who share her passion for Shepherd’s Center of Webster-Kirkwood and the work we do. Life outside Shepherd’s Center includes volunteer work at Grace Episcopal Church as a Lay Pastoral Care Visitor, chalice bearer and Altar Guild member. She serves as treasurer and board member of a small St. Louis nonprofit, Person to Person Street Ministry, committed to feeding and aiding the unhoused in downtown St. Louis. She is also a participant in the International Community of Hope.

When not volunteering, Becky enjoys spending time with her family, sewing (especially for others), decorating, travel, reading, baking, and playing word games. “Following the example set by my parents and grandparents, I am motivated by a belief that giving to others is my personal responsibility, offering to share my time, abilities and resources.”

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



KATHY HARR

Shepherd's Center of Topeka, Kansas

After retiring in 2015, Kathy discovered Adventures in Learning through a friend and thoroughly enjoyed it. As she learned more about the Shepherd's Center and its offerings, she became involved in three activity groups: Bridge, MAP, and Family History Writing. Kathy has been an active member of the board of trustees since 2019, serving as vice-chair until 2021 and now as the chair since 2022.

She also serves as the board liaison for the bridge activity group. Kathy knows firsthand how rewarding it is to participate in our programs and what a gift and benefit we are to older adults in our community.

Kathy was the former dean and professor at Baker University School of Nursing, and in recognition of her leadership background, she was asked to serve on the board of trustees. She was elected as the vice-chair of Shepherd's Center board of trustees in 2019 and played a crucial role in hiring a new director. After the pandemic hit in 2020, Kathy was elected chair and led our organization with tenacity and strategic planning. She worked tirelessly to rebuild what was lost during the pandemic. From messaging to fundraising, she led our team through the rebuilding process, all with the goal in mind of helping older adults stay active, stay informed, and overcome isolation.

Kathy was instrumental in developing our 20 for 20 fundraising plan in 2023. From the numerous planning meetings, hosting lunches and brunch, writing letters, and making calls, Kathy's dedication and guidance helped us to achieve our fundraising goal of over \$40,000. She is a perfect example of a servant leader, possessing qualities such as compassion, generosity, flexibility, responsibility, gratitude, and support.

Kathy's unwavering commitment, expertise, and passion for the Shepherd's Center's mission have been invaluable in driving our organization forward. She has tirelessly worked to lead our organization so we can provide older adults within our community with opportunities to take part in various activities that enhance their lives. Thanks to Kathy's leadership, we have rebuilt and sustained our mission while continuing to serve others, and it is my privilege and honor to nominate Kathy for the Donald Owen and Katherine Horrridge Smith National Volunteer of Excellence Award.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



SARAH (SALLY) LANE

Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley, Lewisburg,
West Virginia

Sally Lane has been an exemplary volunteer with Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley (SCGV) since joining the board in 2017, holding various leadership roles including secretary, vice president, and president from 2022 to 2023. She is deeply committed to SCGV's mission, actively serving on various committees, such as marketing, congregational and community relations, event planning, and Adventures in Learning. Sally takes the leadership role readily but is also a good team player. She is insightful and offers creative solutions to challenges.

Sally's commitment to volunteerism with SCGV is evident, but she also is a phenomenal volunteer presence in our community. Some of her other volunteer work includes St. James Episcopal Church, where she contributes to the Altar Guild, choir, office support, and various programs like "Feed the Flock" and Gwen's Meals. In the broader community, she volunteers with initiatives such as "Read Aloud," "Community in Schools," Greenbrier Valley Theatre, and the American Red Cross. In 2018, she was honored as the Volunteer of the Year for the City of Lewisburg.

Her extensive network in Greenbrier Valley has been instrumental in furthering SCGV's mission, aiding in volunteer recruitment, sponsorships, and grant opportunities. Sally's leadership within SCGV has been invaluable, providing guidance to staff, planning and implementing programs like Adventures in Learning, and actively participating in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Sally has been an enthusiastic leader in Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley from the beginning of her association. Once she understood who we were and what we did, she participated in all aspects of SCGV. She had suggestions to update our programs and fresh marketing ideas. She attended the SCA National Conference in Indianapolis. She conveys a "can do" attitude to all the board and staff. Sally is a "people person" and interacts easily with all participants and staff. She has a wide range of experience in business, church relations and working with nonprofits.

In the past year, Sally demonstrated exceptional leadership during the transition of a new Executive Director, organizing the search, mentoring the new hire, and stepping up to manage day-to-day operations. Sally's contributions have greatly enriched SCGV and the community at large, bringing in new donors, volunteers, and ideas. Her dedication, leadership, and tireless efforts have set a high standard for future volunteers and leaders. Sally Lane truly embodies the spirit of making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



GREG LEAR

Kansas City Shepherd's Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Greg Lear can easily be described as a Kansas City Shepherd's Center's "Super Volunteer," where he has been an active volunteer leader since 2004. He is an outstanding example of Shepherd's Center's mission inspired 52 years ago by our founder, Dr. Elbert Cole, of purposeful and meaningful living in retirement years, exchanging work for compensation with work in service to others.

It all started when Greg saw a posting on a bulletin board at church asking for volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers, and he's been delivering a daily well check and a hot meal to KCSC clients for nearly twenty years since. He had just retired from Medicare as a Manager and had a passion for food insecurity issues, also volunteering for Harvesters, Kansas City's main food bank. Greg also volunteered as a driver for our 'Wheels that Care' transportation program from 2012 until we transitioned the program to Jewish Family Services in 2017 where he still drives for the Jet Express program in 2024.

Greg served on the KCSC board of directors from 2006-2012 and Community Advisory Committee from 2013 to 2019. His roles in leadership on the board and advisory council, as well as his two decades of serving as a program volunteer for KCSC, have provided Greg with a broad understanding of the capacity needs of KCSC. He is always willing to step up for tasks and projects that benefit the clients we serve, even on short notice if he's in town and available.

A retired 30-year career Medicare executive, Greg has been a dedicated volunteer Medicare counselor for KCSC since 2005. Greg and our other volunteers save Medicare beneficiaries substantial out-of-pocket expenses by listening to the financial and medical needs of the clients they serve, analyzing the complex Medicare marketplace, and offering information help clients select the most cost-effective plans to meet their needs.

Greg was honored in our inaugural "70 over 70" Class of 2018 for his ongoing and multiple contributions to the mission of KCSC, as well as his community leadership in Kansas City, where he is also active in his church and in other organizations. Greg is inspiring in all regards, finding time for others and his volunteer commitments while enjoying his retirement with his wife, Nancy, including traveling and long visits to be a proud Grandpa. Greg and Nancy are ongoing and generous donors to the mission of KCSC in addition to their outstanding and long-serving volunteer contributions, both of which make fulfilling our mission possible. Greg leads enthusiastically and positively from a place of humility, servant leadership and dedication to KCSC's core values. Greg has been an active volunteer for twenty years and has no plans to "retire" from service any time soon.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



TOM LEE

Shepherd's Center of Kernersville, North Carolina

One of the many ministries of The Shepherd's Center of Kernersville is free pastoral counseling. We are pleased to have Tom Lee as our counselor on a weekly basis. He is a retired minister with an array of training in grief, depression, family counseling, addiction, and other needs of the human heart. Tom is a delight, easy to talk with, trustworthy, and resourceful in assisting individuals with their specific needs.

Tom first came to The Shepherd's Center of Kernersville in 1992, when our first Executive Director, Heather Camp, was seeking a volunteer counselor to aid with this need in our community. Heather reached out to Tom through his current volunteer role at Contact Winston-Salem where he counseled low-income individuals via office and telephone counseling. At the time that Heather approached Tom, he was planning to move to Greensboro and responded with, "Sure, let's give it a go."

Tom attended college at Auburn University for Industrial Management, then in his junior year he decided he needed to study something more fulfilling. He changed his major to English with a minor in Psychology after attending summer school and with deep thought, Tom started thinking about studying ministry. He then attended Duke Divinity School and completed his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1956. He later completed a master's degree in counseling from UNC Greensboro. Within 40 years of ministry work, Tom led a number of congregations as a minister across Alabama and Western North Carolina. Tom also spent about 5 years on the Board of Ordained Ministry with the Western NC Conference.

When asking Tom what one of his most enjoyable moments were through the years, he responded with working with the Methodist Youth Camp. He stated he was able to use his skills while enjoying his time working with Camp Tekoa Youth Camp in Henderson, NC for 11 years. He felt that the kids got a lot out of the camps, he could see their growth, and felt the work he did fulfilled a purpose. This was truly his favorite experience during his career.

Tom states that he continues to volunteer because he likes to, and it gives meaning to his life and others. For Tom, the most rewarding part of counseling is when the recipients have met their desired outcome and feel they can move forward. The most challenging part about counseling for Tom is when the recipients can't quite grasp the issue they are facing and when he isn't able to help them get what they are seeking.

In 2023, Tom completed 78 counseling sessions, doubled from the year before. Tom also doubled his volunteer hours from 62 to 120 volunteer hours just last year. Tom's commitment to us has shown how extraordinary he truly is while serving these adults in need. He has been consistently, week after week, in our office offering his time and skills for 32 years. Tom is an amazing 93-year-old with such delightful stories and experiences to tell. Thank you, Tom, for all the time and effort you have given us at The Shepherd's Center of Kernersville and helping us to continue to fulfill our mission.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



RANDALL OSBORNE

Mutual Adoption Pact, Shepherd's Center of Greater
San Marcos, Texas

Randall's commitment to the Mutual Adoption Pact (MAP) began in 2001 when he relocated to San Marcos, Texas to begin his tenure as a professor in the Department of Psychology at Texas State University. He immediately immersed himself in MAP's intergenerational service-learning program of matching older adults with university students in creating enduring relationships of mutual benefit.

He served as a mentor to students while identifying older adults and older adult communities that could benefit as program clients/participants. He further provided his expertise as a researcher to validate the benefit of MAP to both older adults and students.

Central to his findings are that MAP enhances the quality of life of older adults while increasing volunteerism by young adults and simultaneously decreasing ageism. During his journey with MAP, Randall has volunteered in directly serving the needs of older adults. He has a particular interest in working with MAP's programs addressing food insecurity, including collaboration with Meals on Wheels, the Public Housing Authority, and the Food Bank. Food distribution is of both perishable (hot) and non-perishable (canned and packaged) food items.

Randall has not limited himself to addressing the nutritional needs of older adults. He has long recognized the plight of social isolation among this population. His volunteering and mentoring have led him to seek ways to create enduring relationships between the generations. He has fostered interactions that have been consistently maintained for five years or more. He consistently seeks to enhance MAP to better address ways to reduce the boredom, helplessness, and loneliness of older adults.

His vision for MAP and the Shepherd's Center model of caregiving and lifelong learning has led him to provide leadership in a current program of expansion for the greater San Marcos area. He serves as both a board and planning committee member for this effort. He is tireless in reaching out to community organizations to join as collaborators. These include nonprofits, faith communities, governmental entities, and commercial businesses. Of particular interest is a relationship he has nurtured with a continuing education organization for older adults that has strong media ties.

Dr. Randall Osborne is a tireless steward for MAP and Shepherd's Centers. He addresses the need. He provides direct services to older adult clients, mentors young adult volunteers, validates program effectiveness through research, and provides leadership to both sustain and expand the program for the future.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



ED ROMANO

Shepherd's Center-Beachside, Indian Harbour Beach,
Florida

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands —
one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

— Audrey Hepburn

Shepherd's Center-Beachside in Indian Harbour Beach, Florida, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2024, and Ed Romano has been its longest-tenured volunteer for eighteen of those twenty years. For our Thursday and Friday mornings for three 8-week terms a year, Ed arrives at least an hour before the Adventures in Learning classes begin. He typically comes through the door singing a song from some musical he has attended. Whatever ditty Ed is singing that morning, everyone else on the staff will be humming it for the rest of the day! Notwithstanding, Ed's humor, kindness, and loyalty are contagious. His self-starting demeanor energizes him to manage the morning set-up activities by adding and arranging chairs in classrooms, setting up audio/visual equipment for teachers, and greeting the arriving students.

Ed had a distinguished career before becoming a volunteer at Shepherd's Center-Beachside. Hailing from New York, Ed served in the United States Marine Corps. He began a long and rewarding career with the Grumman Corporation in Bethpage, Long Island, New York, retiring from there in 1993. His notable achievement at Grumman was as a quality control manager on the Apollo Lunar Module Program. After moving to Indialantic, Florida, in 1994, a job opportunity beckoned him to Northrop-Grumman in Melbourne, Florida, where he remained until his "second" retirement in 2002. Ed is also one of our Shepherd's Center-Beachside trustees representing the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church.

On the last day of each term at Shepherd's Center-Beachside, Ed spearheads the Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon. He arranges this catered affair each term. Never are the teachers and guests disappointed with their selection of great food and venue location. At the conclusion of our winter term luncheon, we surprised Ed by honoring him for his tireless years of volunteering at Shepherd's Center-Beachside. Our gift certificate to a local theatre will enable Ed to learn more theatrical songs so he can bring them back to begin our mornings. By the way, Ed is 92 and going strong!

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



ROBERT SCHILLING

Mid North Shepherd's Center, Indianapolis, Indiana

Rev. Robert A. Schilling has been working with Mid-North Shepherd' Center since 2007. His remarkable services as Choir Director and active participant have earned Bob an outstanding reputation. He sang in the Choir sixteen of the eighteen years he directed the choir, including more than two hundred performances at retirement homes, nursing homes, social clubs, churches, conventions, Indiana State Fair, adult day care centers, and a retired public employees convention (with several hundred folks in attendance). The Indianapolis Choir sang at two national conferences of Shepherd Centers of America (SCA) - Lake Junaluska and Indianapolis.

Bob recruited additional musicians for most of the performances, which included flutists, violinists, percussionists, and pianists. The repertoire included show tunes, folk songs, spirituals, patriotic songs, seasonal songs, and Broadway Show tunes. Each year he selected a Broadway Show that had available scores for choirs such as "Oklahoma," "Guys and Dolls," "Carousel," "South Pacific," and many others.

Bob also presented a number of programs over the years. These included model railroading, a hobby show of his armadillo collection, "My favorite Hymns," pipe organ construction, Thanksgiving program, travelogues, symbolism in North United Methodist Church sanctuary, and he led devotional gatherings in the chapel.

Bob turned 90 in October of 2023. He served North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis as Minister of Worship and the Arts (organist, choir director, associate pastor) for forty-one years, 1961 – 2002. He was called to service by Elbert C. Cole who later became the founder of Shepherd Centers of America. Mid-North Shepherd's Center was founded in 1982, sponsored by eight area congregations and met at North United Methodist Church. The Shepherd Singers (SATB choir) was founded in 1982 by Anna Lee Hamilton. She passed in 2005 shortly after issuing the CD recording "Hymns We Love to Sing." Bob was then invited to become the volunteer director of the Shepherd Singers in March 2005 and continued until directing his final concert in October 2023, a total of 18 years.

Bob has retired from conducting the choir, but he still attends, and enjoys singing in the bass section. Rev. Schilling's profound enthusiasm for the mission of living with meaning and purpose distinguishes him as an exemplary model volunteer.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



CHUCK SMITHERS

Shepherd's Center of Orange Park, Florida

There are so many reasons why Chuck Smithers is an outstanding volunteer. The number one reason is that Chuck is a genuinely caring and altruistic individual who gives of his time, treasure, and talents without any strings attached. Chuck has been the treasurer for Shepherd's Center of Orange Park (SCOOP) since 2015, at least that is his official title. What Chuck actually does is much more complicated; he is a confidant, advisor, mentor, worker bee, donor, volunteer, and a talented CPA. Two words used to describe Chuck are consistency and commitment.

Chuck spends on average 4½ hours a week working on deposits, reports, budgets, and 990's for SCOOP. In 2023, he spent 234 hours of accounting work, at a value of \$9,126. Over the past 8 years the value of his work has been \$70,008. In addition to the bookkeeping work, Chuck keeps the board abreast of any changes in laws that could affect our ability to provide services to the community. Everyone on the board values how he breaks down financial reports for lay leaders to understand.

Chuck is very conscious of the changing landscape of fundraising for the Shepherd's Center. SCOOP's typical funders have faced increased demands from corporate heads and government, making it more difficult for them to financially assist smaller nonprofits in the community through sponsorships. As SCOOP saw many funders go by the wayside, Chuck stepped up and shared his treasure at the Platinum Sponsor Level (+\$2,500) for our Golden Years Gala in 2022 - 2024.

Chuck has successfully guided SCOOP through the pandemic and post-pandemic challenges of fundraising. During this time, SCOOP saw a 20% decrease in revenue, probably a treasurer's worst nightmare! Chuck has worked tirelessly in finding other funding sources: he wrote a grant for ARPA funding from Clay County government, assisted with a technology grant from The Community Foundation, and participated in funding opportunities from the Reinhold Foundation.

In addition to his treasurer duties, Chuck has spent many hours in educational courses. Chuck participated in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training offered by Shepherd's Center of America. Chuck has used this training to help guide our board in adopting a DEI statement. Chuck has followed up this training by participating in monthly meetings to assess the progress of our organization and hear best practices from other Shepherd's Center organizations.

Beyond his accounting gift, Chuck is always ready to help in other ways: setting up outreach booths, organizing auction items at the gala, and our all around fix it/IT guy in the office. In addition to serving Shepherd's Center of Orange Park, Chuck serves on the Board of Shepherd's Center of America in the capacity of treasurer. Sarah Cheney, Executive Director of SCA echoes our feelings, "He comes to every meeting prepared to discuss all topics on the agenda. Chuck is a wonderful collaborator who brings people together. He is good at finding common ground and moving discussions forward."

Chuck is not only an unsung hero for SCOOP, but he also serves on multiple boards throughout Clay County: The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry of Orange Park (Chairperson of the Board) and Anointed Communities in Transformation (Treasurer and Board Member). Chuck is also highly active in his church, Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church (President of the Board).

Chuck does all this work without any request for accolades. He is the type of board member that all executive directors would like to clone. He is always available to give advice and find answers to any number of board issues.

If we had to hire an individual to provide similar services to SCOOP, it would add another 10% to our budget. Chuck's dedication to SCOOP and to older adults in Clay County cannot be measured. He is making a difference, he is enhancing our community, and he sets an example of volunteerism!



SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



BARRY WICKERSHAM

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke, Virginia

Barry Wickersham has been a dedicated volunteer and leader with the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke in Northern Virginia since its earliest days in 2007. Barry helped lead us through the early years of building the organization from the ground up and was a key part of helping us weather the tremendous disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He is currently the Vice Chair and the lead person on our Board of Directors overseeing our busy transportation program as well as all of our enrichment activities.

Barry came to the Shepherd's Center after a full career that included leading large, complex organizations. Barry's organizational and leadership expertise was evident throughout his many years of service, but never more so than in early 2023 when our Executive Director died suddenly and unexpectedly. Our administrative team had only been in place for a few months at that time and the disruptions the organization faced could easily have left us adrift. That did not happen, though, because Barry and a few other key volunteer leaders rallied the organization and filled whatever gaps presented themselves until a new Executive Director was on board.

Barry is a top volunteer recruiter and ambassador for the Shepherd's Center. One top "get" for Barry was convincing our local County Supervisor to join him on a ride with one of our liveliest riders. That Supervisor is now one of our best advocates with the county government.

Barry is also a key keeper of the history of our Shepherd's Center. As we move into a new year with big plans for building up our programs, Barry is both a supporter and a voice of wisdom about what has been tried before.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



SUSIE WILTSHIRE

Shepherd's Center of Richmond, Virginia

Before retiring in 2005, Susie Wiltshire was an educator for 44 years, serving as an elementary school principal, director of studies, and teacher of French, German, and English. She spent 38 of those years at St. Catherine's School, but also taught in the Richmond Public Schools, Hampton High School, the Collegiate Schools, and the University of Richmond. After all this, you would think that she would put her feet up... but not Susie. "Teaching has always brought me great joy and I love to learn. Plus, I have a long history of doing volunteer work." It all came together for her in one organization.

At the spry age of 87 (or as Susie likes to say - she is four-score and seven years old), Susie has spent the last 15 years volunteering in a variety of roles at The Shepherd's Center of Richmond.

It started when a friend of Susie's, who served on The Shepherd's Center's board, recruited her to teach French, and Susie immediately accepted. The next day she was also asked to be a member of the board of directors, to serve on the education committee, and chair the public relations committee. Again, she agreed. "My late husband, Charley, and I had been attending classes offered at the Open University and we were pleased with the organization's efforts in providing stimulation for older citizens." Volunteering for the Shepherd's Center, teaching, devising courses, and recruiting lunch speakers for 60 presentations a year, made her feel as if she were back at St. Catherine's again.

On top of her volunteer work for the Center's lifelong learning programs, Susie is the Center's unofficial long-time senior editor. Anything that goes "to press" is reviewed by Susie—and anyone who has had work reviewed by her is a better writer from having had the experience! She also continues to be a strong advocate for the Center's PR committee and is passionate about getting the word out to the community.

In 2012, her French students established a scholarship in her name so that older adults in need can now participate in Open University. In 2019, on the occasion of the Center's 35th anniversary, Susie received its Distinguished Service Award, presented to those who are deemed to have played important roles in the founding and/or successful operation of the Center.

The Shepherd's Center of Richmond is successful because of Susie Wiltshire's amazing talents and her willingness to support the good work accomplished for the betterment of Richmond's older adult community. If we could honor her every day with an award, we would!

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



JOHN WOODMANSEE

Shepherds Center of Greater Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Home Inspector, Builder, Psychology Professor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Air Force Electronics Specialist, Entrepreneur—all these titles have described John Woodmansee at various points in his life. In 2012, John walked into the Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem to inquire about volunteer opportunities. He would soon add Home Repair Volunteer to his long list of titles.

He was winding things down with his 30-year home inspection business and was exploring ways to serve his community. He expressed a particular passion for helping older adults with challenging home repair needs.

It would take another three years for him to fully make the transition from his business, but in 2015 at age 84, he joined the home repair team of the Shepherd's Center and has not slowed down since. Over the past nine years, John has responded to close to 2000 home repair needs and also served as mentor, professional advisor, and source of inspiration for a team of twenty or so repair volunteers. He approaches his volunteer role just as he would a real job, putting in several hours each day repairing leaky faucets, fixing malfunctioning toilets, installing grab bars, and addressing any number of things that can break or go wrong in a house. Now at 92, he continues to work circles around other volunteers half his age, crawling under sinks and doing whatever the job requires. John's story exemplifies the Shepherd's Center vision of what it means to age well and find meaning and purpose in serving others.

While John's repair skills are remarkable, his care for people is just as extraordinary. He always takes time to get to know homeowners, often engaging them in the repair process. He sees his role as "working with" as opposed to "doing for," always treating those who invite him in their home with respect and dignity.

In addition to his tireless involvement with the Shepherd's Center, John finds time to sing in his church choir and attend symphony concerts. During tax season, his repair work takes a back seat as he volunteers to assist older adults with tax preparation. A few years ago, he spent several months helping to renovate old apartments which were being converted to housing for people transitioning from homelessness. He continues to have a special interest in psychology and recently helped start a men's group at his church.

From its inception, the Shepherd's Center has been a place where older adults are encouraged to see their lives as rich sources of wisdom and experience and to find ways to experience meaning and purpose in their post-retirement years. In our community, "Mr. John," as he is lovingly known by many who have been on the receiving end of his kindness and his incredible fix-it knowledge and expertise, continues to inspire young and old alike. Every day, John is living proof that aging doesn't have to be a stage of life to dread. It can be a rich time for learning, growing, and giving back.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



JIM WEIKEL

Shepherd's Center of Greensboro, North Carolina
2014 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

For over 26 years, Jim Weikel was the driving force behind the Shepherd's Center of Greensboro (SCG), embodying the essence of volunteerism and community leadership. He was the first national volunteer leader to be honored with the Donald Owen Smith National Leadership Award, and it is fitting he is one of the first inductees into the Smith National Gallery of Volunteer Excellence.

In 1986, Jim embarked on a mission to establish a task force involving nine congregations with the aim of creating a Shepherd's Center to support older adults in leading purposeful, independent lives. His dedication to this vision was unwavering, earning him the admiration and respect of all who had the privilege of working with him. Jim's contributions extended far beyond mere participation; he was instrumental in every aspect of SCG's development and success. From organizing interfaith councils to advocating for program enhancements, Jim's scope of responsibility knew no bounds. He served on committees, chaired national network conferences, and mentored countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on the organization and its community. But Jim's impact transcended the walls of SCG. His spirit of volunteerism permeated every aspect of his life, from his involvement with the Adult Center for Enrichment to his support for Creative Aging Network NC. Whether advising on transition issues or championing creative arts programming, Jim's commitment to service knew no bounds.

One of Jim's most remarkable qualities was his ability to inspire and mobilize others. His infectious enthusiasm and unwavering dedication inspired countless individuals to step forward and contribute their time and talents to SCG's mission. From retired professors to community leaders, Jim had a knack for bringing out the best in people and empowering them to make a difference. At age 90, Jim continued to be a driving force within SCG, mentoring new board members, attending events, and providing invaluable guidance to the organization. His legacy was not just in the programs he helped create or the services he supported, but in the lives he touched and the inspiration he provided to others.

In a world where social media often celebrates short-term heroes, Jim Weikel stood as a shining example of sustained commitment and leadership. His dedication, passion, and unwavering belief in the power of community not only shaped the Shepherd's Center of Greensboro but enriched the lives of countless individuals. As we celebrate Jim's remarkable contributions, we are reminded that aging is inevitable, but how we age is not, thanks to individuals like Jim who lit the way for others to follow.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



ANN MCCLUNG

Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley, Lewisville, West Virginia
2015 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

What can you say about Ann McClung? She is a wife, mother, grandmother, physical therapist, farmer's daughter, cattle rancher, blue ribbon gardener, devout Christian, Sunday school teacher, and avid reader – the visionary leader who founded the Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley. Whatever Ann undertakes, she will give it her best effort. Ann McClung was awarded the second SCA Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award in 2015 for these reasons.

We congratulate Ann McClung on her distinguished achievement. Ann is one of the founders of the Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley in Lewisburg, West Virginia. In 1997, with her inclusive outlook, she was instrumental in bringing together community congregations to explore establishing a Shepherd's Center. Today, as a new retiree, she continues to be an inspiring leader. Ann is a shining light!

In 1997, Ann caught the spirit of Shepherd's Centers founder Elbert Cole. She wanted that vision to be a reality for her own dear older family members and Greenbrier Valley. In the next two years, while still working full time as a physical therapist, Ann built a coalition of church leaders, held focus groups, procured nonprofit status, formed a board of community leaders, went to Kansas City for training, received Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley's charter, applied for grants, and held the first Adventures in Learning in 1999. Because of her training and personal relationship with Elbert, Ann built SCGV to be the complete model of Elbert's vision.

Ann has served two terms on the national Shepherd Centers of America board of directors, which included working as the treasurer and the President. There is no doubt that the broader experience in working with Shepherd's Centers around the country has enriched SCGV's programming and financial status.

Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024. Ann McClung still gives the best part of her free time to the furtherance of SCGV's ministry and sustainability. What can we say except, "Thank you, Ann!"

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



JULIUS HANKIN

Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia, Oakton, Virginia
2016 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

Julius Hankin was a founding member of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, now known as Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA) in 1997. Alongside his wife Mary Ann, he actively participated in assessing the needs of older adults in the Oakton and Vienna communities.

Initially part of a task force that later evolved into the Board of Directors, Julius eagerly embraced the opportunity to advocate for a new perspective on aging and champion services for older adults in various communities and congregations. Throughout the years, he tirelessly supported SCOV's initiatives.

Julius assumed the role of a dedicated ambassador for the Shepherd's Center, extending his influence beyond the local community to neighboring areas where similar programs could make a difference. He represented SCOV at public events, secured sponsorships for fundraisers, and reached out to older adults in need of services. Julius took proactive steps in engaging older adult groups and community organizations, highlighting the rewarding experience of volunteering at SCNOVA.

One of Julius's notable contributions was initiating and organizing the annual interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship Service, a significant event benefiting local food banks. His commitment to engaging congregations in supporting SCNOVA has remained steadfast since its early days, maintaining strong connections with 20 sponsoring congregations.

During his 17 years on the board, Julius served the Shepherd's Center in various capacities, including chairing committees, providing transportation for older adults to appointments, and volunteering at events. His community involvement extended beyond SCNOVA, actively participating in activities with the Unity of Fairfax congregation, volunteering at the Smithsonian Greenhouses, and contributing to his local recreation center.

Julius's caring demeanor and unwavering dedication served as an inspiration to everyone who worked alongside him. His commitment played a pivotal role in SCNOVA's growth and success. Without his dedication, the Shepherd's Center would not have achieved its current standing. Julius was affectionately described as the "hardest working man for the Shepherd's Center," demonstrating boundless energy and enthusiasm.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



JERRY EHNES

Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood, St. Louis, Missouri
2017 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

Jerry Ehnes first became a volunteer upon his retirement in 2003. He was attracted to the Shepherd's Center because of his dedication to meaningful service. His first volunteer role was that of a driver, a task he still greatly enjoys. Over the years, Jerry's relationship to the Shepherd's Center has grown, and he is currently one of our most valued leaders. He is someone that we honestly could not do without.

Of all the Shepherd's Center's core values, leadership is the one that best describes Jerry. In all of his many roles, Jerry always takes the lead. He has assumed a great deal of responsibility for our organization, and he can always be counted on. Jerry's leadership capacities include the Board of Directors, Board Treasurer, Finance Committee, and Fundraising Planning Committee. In each role, Jerry gives countless hours and works hard. With the Executive Director's and a volunteer bookkeeper's support, Jerry takes responsibility for the Center's finances, including day-to-day reporting, working with the yearly audit, and soliciting corporate donations. Jerry faithfully takes the lead in planning the coordination of our major fundraiser every year. He can be counted on to take responsibility for the higher order tasks of running an organization that sometimes volunteers shy away from. It is not unusual for Jerry to pop into the office just to see if help is needed.

One of the keys to successful leadership is working cooperatively with others. Jerry has built strong relationships with other Board and Committee Members and leads the way with a deep sense of grace. It is obvious that he enjoys supporting the Shepherd's Center and projects a willing attitude toward those he works with. In his dedicated volunteer service since 2003, Jerry has shown great determination in making our organization a success by providing consistency in his leadership and supporting important changes.

Jerry volunteered for the Shepherd's Center in 2003 because of his interest in serving others. He began as a transportation volunteer driving older adults to medical appointments. He frequently speaks about how much he enjoys getting to know and spending time with the individuals he transports, and they speak very highly of him. Here is what one had to say in a thank-you note:

"Thank you for your volunteer driver, Jerry, who took me to the doctor who did some unexpected tests, but Jerry was very patient. I'm very grateful for your service and the high quality of your volunteers."

– Ivadell Peters

Jerry is an avid golfer. We appreciate his contribution so much that during nice weather, we plan meetings around his golf schedule. He is also an advocate who gives voice to many causes by writing letters to the editor in local newspapers – sharing both criticism and praise. He is a veteran, father of a blended family of 8, and grandfather of 3.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



SUE DECHARME

Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley, Lewisville, West Virginia
2018 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

Volunteers serve as the lifeblood of Shepherd's Centers, and recognizing their dedication brings immense joy. However, singling out one individual among a pool of inspiring volunteers is no easy feat. At the national conference, it was a moment to honor Sue DuCharme with the 2018 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award.

Sue, a longtime volunteer with Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley was known as "an encourager to everyone she met," "incredibly generous with her time and talents," and someone who "brought many gifts to all who were part of Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley."

Sue epitomized the qualities of compassion, service to others, cooperation, inclusion, determination, charity, leadership, and stewardship. Her journey with Shepherd's Center began in 2008 upon her relocation to the Greenbrier Valley region, where she swiftly engaged in Adventures in Learning classes and immersed herself in numerous activities. Serving on the board, Sue's leadership was marked by vision and wisdom, particularly in strategic and financial planning, while always remaining a dedicated team player.

Sue's impact extended beyond the Shepherd's Center; she spearheaded a grassroots campaign for a planned retirement community in the Greenbrier Valley, dedicating countless hours to the cause. Despite her passing in July 2023 from a rare brain tumor, Sue's legacy of visionary, inclusive, and enthusiastic volunteer service lives on in our community.

Sue's profound care for Shepherd's Center and her community, coupled with her compassionate leadership, has left an indelible mark. Her vision, initiative, and hard work have brought pride to her Shepherd's Center and her community.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



TOM PORTMAN

Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia, Oakton, Virginia
2019 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

Tom was a steadfast supporter of Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA) for over a decade. He first connected with SCNOVA in 2009, dedicating his time to penning numerous grants to fund various activities. He served as a volunteer in the handy helper and transportation programs before bringing his strong leadership skills to the Board of Directors in 2013 and secretary in 2016.

Tom's philanthropic spirit embodied true compassion, service, leadership, stewardship, and love for his community. His versatility and creativity distinguished him among volunteers, deserving national recognition by SCA.

Tom served SCNOVA diligently in diverse roles, from front-line Handy Helper to grant writer, board member, event organizer, donor, and architect of the Veteran's Initiative. As a former member of the US Armed Services, he held a special dedication to serving aging veterans, often overlooked in our community. Over two years, Tom developed and secured funding for SCNOVA's Veteran's Initiative, linking veteran volunteers with older adults needing core services like transportation and companionship. He established a specialized training program for volunteers and forged crucial partnerships with other veteran support organizations in the community.

In 2018, Tom spearheaded SCNOVA's most successful fundraising event to date, the SCNOVA Gala, attended by hundreds of residents, local leaders, and political representatives, raising nearly \$100,000 and significantly raising community awareness. The Gala's success continued in subsequent years, further elevating SCNOVA's profile.

Tom's personal commitment, boundless energy, and organizational prowess inspired SCNOVA's staff, volunteers, and board members alike. Through his example, he fostered collaborative and enthusiastic efforts towards SCNOVA's mission of improving quality of life for aging individuals. Tom's dedication touched every aspect of SCNOVA's vision: A World Without Loneliness. Though he is no longer with us, his impact on SCNOVA and the community lives on.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



DICK ENTENMANN

Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood, St. Louis, Missouri
2020 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

Dick Entenmann first became a volunteer in 2012 and he has been an invaluable leader for our center ever since. Dick first learned of the Shepherd's Center while he was volunteering for the food pantry that was one of the other tenants in our building at the time. He visited our center and soon after became a volunteer driver. Dick's relationship with our Shepherd's Center has grown over the years. After three terms as Board Chair, Dick's leadership has played a key role in the growth and success of our organization.

Dick is a natural leader. He retired in 2001 after 32 years of employment from Daimler/Chrysler. His final position was Vice President of Car/Minivan Assembly within the Manufacturing Division. His leadership experience shows that he relates to others with a sense of ease that effectively motivates a team. Dick's current leadership capacities include Board Chair, Event Chair, Finance, Executive, and Marketing Committees. His volunteer roles include: driver, phone pal, and simply put...whatever else needs to be done. It is common for Dick to participate in meetings with foundations and granting agencies. Dick can be counted on to take responsibility for higher-order tasks that volunteers sometimes shy away from.

No task is too small and leading by example is important. Dick is an event chair and/or co-chair for both of our fundraising events every year. He spends countless hours reaching out to sponsors, organizing meetings, coordinating volunteers, and selling tickets. On the night of the event, he can always be found with the last of the volunteers on duty doing dishes in the kitchen. He encourages others with his example and motivates them as a team. Volunteers naturally follow his lead.

Our center was founded in 1998 by a local leader in the Methodist Church, Ed Odom. During our formative years, Ed was the heart of our center's mission. Ed became less involved over time as his health changed. We consider Dick to have inherited the legacy of our founder Ed Odom. He fully exemplifies our mission in action and is a driving force as we look to the future.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HORRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



CAROL MCGINNIS KAY

Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews, Columbia, South Carolina
2021 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

Carol has been an integral part of Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews since 2006, driven by her recognition of the importance of socialization and interfaith learning for older adults. Over the past 15 years, she has actively volunteered, teaching classes and fostering a caring and inclusive atmosphere. Carol is passionate about the importance of Shepherd's Center in engaging older adults.

Carol's leadership roles, including Board membership and terms as Secretary, President, and Past-President, have significantly shaped the center's direction. Notably, she chaired the Adventures in Learning (AIL) Committee, elevating class offerings resulting in the Shepherd's Center's reputation for varied and meaningful class offerings. During her leadership, membership increased more than three and half times to more than 1,110 registrations.

Utilizing her background as a retired university professor of English, Carol has taught various subjects, notably Shakespeare and European cathedrals. She has also organized educational trips and presented programs at local retirement facilities. Additionally, Carol has contributed to the center's promotional efforts, designing brochures and ensuring effective marketing.

During her tenure, Carol played a key role in updating center operations, including developing manuals and improving facilities. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded the transition to online classes, ensuring continuity and member engagement. Her efforts extended beyond the center, contributing a challenge gift to ensure financial stability during challenging times.

Under Carol's leadership, the AIL Committee successfully implemented Zoom classes and pop-up sessions, attracting participation from various communities. She has adapted teaching methods to recent technology, fostering a sense of community and providing much-needed socialization for older adults. As restrictions eased, Carol facilitated the return of in-person classes, prioritizing safety measures.

Carol's dedication, organizational skills, and positive attitude have greatly benefited the Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews, enriching programs and fostering a sense of community among members. Her encouragement of volunteerism and commitment to diversity ensure the center continues to serve older adults with vitality and enthusiasm, enhancing the community's well-being.

SHEPHERD'S CENTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL GALLERY OF VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2024

DONALD OWEN AND KATHERINE HARRIDGE SMITH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



JAYNE YOUNG

Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia, Oakton, Virginia
2022 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leader Honoree

Jayne's journey with the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA) began when a close friend of hers, who happened to be the executive director at the time, invited her to serve on the Development Committee in 2010. Recognizing Jayne's rich background in fundraising and event planning, her friend enlisted her help. Shortly after, when the office administrator decided to retire, Jayne was offered the role.

In this new capacity, she managed a myriad of tasks, from reconciling statements to being the editor of the bimonthly newsletter and interacting directly with all the volunteers.

Some of Jayne's most memorable accomplishments with SCNOVA include the successful introduction of software, which significantly streamlined the coordination between volunteers and those needing rides, making the process more efficient. Over time, Jayne's responsibilities grew, and she was named Director of Operations and Events. During the COVID pandemic, she stepped up as the interim executive director when their then-director left unexpectedly. Under her leadership, the affiliate not only remained operational throughout the pandemic but also expanded its services to provide food shopping, prescription pickups, and a host of virtual events to keep their community engaged. Jayne also played an instrumental role in merging with another local Shepherd's Center, leading to a name change to Shepherd's Centers of Northern Virginia (from Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna) to better represent their broadened service area.

After a fulfilling seven years, Jayne stepped down in 2017. However, her dedication to the Shepherd's Center was far from over. The following year, she joined the SCNOVA Board of Directors, where she now holds the position of vice chair and volunteers for various committees.

Jayne's commitment to the Shepherd's Center mission extends beyond Virginia. She serves on SCA's Fundraising and Development Committee, helping to further the reach and engage more older adults.

Throughout Jayne's tenure, she has shown grace in meeting the needs of older adults while building bridges with supporting congregations, local businesses, regional politicians, and other nonprofits in the area. She clearly embodies the characteristics of servant leadership, traits such as kindness, open-mindedness, accountability, appreciation, and advocacy. Through her actions, she has enriched the lives of others, helped build a better Shepherd's Center, and created a more caring world.

When asked about how she manages to volunteer so extensively, Jayne simply remarked that she enjoys staying busy. Reflecting on her recognition with the organization's National Volunteer Leadership Award, she was initially taken aback but deeply honored. For Jayne, this accolade symbolizes the collective efforts of all the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly for SCNOVA's mission daily.