



**November 2019**

## MERRY MAKING

It is an honor to announce the **2019 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award** is presented to **Tom Portman** with **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (VA)**. We surprised Tom by presenting this award earlier this week at the Shepherd's Center's holiday get together.



"Tom's commitment to serving others as they age derives from a deep well of fearless personal compassion and experience," says Susan Garvey, who nominated Tom. "This strength has allowed us to grow our core services, develop unique initiatives, and expand our service area into surrounding areas that have not previously benefited from Shepherd's Center coverage." Tom's service to Shepherd's Center began in 2009 when he volunteered to help with grantwriting. Along with serving as a handy helper and driver, he joined the Board of Directors in 2013 and was elected secretary in 2016.

As a former member of the US Armed Services, Tom has a special interest in serving aging veterans in the community. He has spent the past two years developing the vision, organization, and funding for SCOV's new veteran's initiative. This initiative links veteran volunteers within SCOV to veteran clients in the community who need services such as transportation, companionship, in-home assistance, and social events. Tom also has created a volunteer training program focused on the unique needs of veterans and developed important links to a consortium of other organizations in the community that seek to support veterans.

Presented annually, this prestigious national award recognizes volunteers from the Shepherd's Centers network who embody our core values and celebrate aging in America. 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, this award recognizes excellence in volunteerism and commitment to the mission.

Tom is a driving force locally and nationally as we all continue to be an inclusive network for aging Americas. Tom's commitment to our shared mission and his extraordinary energy set him apart as an inspiring example of the spirit of Shepherd's Centers today... and tomorrow.

Our heartfelt congratulations are extended to Tom!