

Shepherd's Center Expands to Serve Northern Virginia

The Shepherd's Center serving Oakton, Vienna, Reston and Herndon and the Shepherd's Center of Great Falls join forces to better serve area seniors.

The Shepherd's Center serving Oakton, Vienna, Reston and Herndon and the Shepherd's Center of Great Falls are joining forces to continue assisting area seniors, supporting aging in place and creating a world without loneliness. The newly formed Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia (SCNOVA) will continue its partnerships and outreach with the region's faith-based organizations, associations, and local governments to provide free transportation services, companionship, learning opportunities, and caregiver support across expanded service area.

"As an affiliate of the Shepherd's Centers of America, our mission, in part, is to support our sister organizations in the area," said W. Scott Schroth, chairman of the board of directors for the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton, Vienna, Reston and Herndon. "We're excited to welcome Great Falls' vibrant programs and dedicated volunteers to our Oakton, Vienna, Reston and Herndon Shepherd's Center. Our combined strengths as the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia will allow us to continue to serve and help sustain our older neighbors more efficiently."

"The merger is expected to be completed in February," said Philip Pifer, president of the Shepherd's Center of Great Falls. During this time, the centers will continue to provide transportation services to seniors as the work of merging our clients, volunteers and organizations is completed. Free ride services for seniors in Great Falls will continue uninterrupted af-

ter the merger. In addition, Great Falls volunteers and clients will be transferred into SCNOVA at the time of the merger, allowing for a seamless transition.

"We at SCGF are delighted with the potential of this partnership, and with SCOVHRH as our partner," Pifer said. "We evaluated a number of organizations who expressed interest in joining forces, and SCOVHRH was both the best fit and, in our opinion, offers the best potential. Working together, we hope to provide even better and more impactful services to seniors in Northern Virginia."

Since 1998, Shepherd's Center Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon, a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization, has been dedicated to improving the quality of life as we age, through supportive programs and services, personal enrichment and volunteer engagement that enable senior neighbors to live full and productive lives while aging in place. Ihr Center's more than 260 trained and vetted volunteers are medical and companion transportation drivers, friendly callers and visitors, food delivery drivers, handy helpers, health care advocates, and lifelong learning and cultural enrichment enthusiasts. This volunteer engagement network offers stability, encouragement and hope for connected and healthy lives.

Established in 2018, the Shepherd's Center of Great Falls, a 501(c)3 charity, has provided free transportation for non-driving seniors in Great Falls, as well as other services supporting seniors wishing to age in place in their homes.

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— Philip Pifer, president of the Shepherd's Center of Great Falls

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