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**Webster-Kirkwood Volunteer honored with**

**National Volunteer LeaderSHIP AWARD**

KANSAS CITY, MO. –Shepherd’s Centers of America (SCA) announces Dick Entenmann, with the Shepherd’s Center of Webster-Kirkwood (St. Louis), the recipient of the 2020 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award.

The Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award recognizes top volunteers with the Shepherd’s Centers of America network for their service in helping older adults live safely and independently in their own homes. 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 Shepherd’s Centers of America. “Without volunteers, we would not be able to deliver our mission of connecting older adults to life-enriching experiences, which is even more important during the global pandemic.”

Entenmann has served with Webster-Kirkwood for 8 years, first as a volunteer driver and soon helping with a number of other tasks and leadership roles, including three terms as Board Chair as well as Event Chair, Finance, Executive and Marketing Committees. Most recently, he has become a phone pal to connect regularly with those who might be isolating during the pandemic. ​As a result, Entenmann has had a key role in the growth and success of the Shepherd’s Center.

Betsy Solomon, Executive Director with Shepherd’s Center of Webster-Kirkwood and co- nominator, said, “No task is too small and leading by example is important to Dick. He spends countless hours reaching-out to sponsors, organizing meetings, coordinating volunteers, and selling tickets. On the night of an 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.”

Volunteer activities with Shepherd’s Centers include driving a neighbor to a doctor’s appointment or grocery store, picking up groceries, helping with minor home repairs, or offering companionship and connection with regular, friendly visits or phone calls. “These acts of kindness allow older adults to safely remain in their own homes and stay connected to their community,” says Cheney.

“Dick is an outstanding example of the joy and fulfillment that comes from volunteering with Shepherd’s Centers,” says Cheney. “His efforts are changing lives.”

Annually, the Shepherd’s Centers network of 55 centers supports more than 13,000 volunteers who donate 660,800 hours of service. As a result, nearly 55,000 older adults are provided informal caregiving services at no charge. The estimated value of these services is $17.9 million, based on the Independent Sector’s value for volunteer time.

The distinguished Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award is given each year to recognize volunteers from around the Shepherd’s Centers network. Entenmann embodies the passion, commitment, and joyful caring of the Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award.

**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 advancing 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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