



Inspiring older adults through  
volunteerism, enrichment & community connection

November 2019

Dear Shepherd's Center Friend:

**You might say he has WHEELS beneath his wings.**

For decades, Charlie Ries has used his energy, passion, and heart for doing good. Upon retirement, he became what you might call a “professional volunteer”, staying more active than in his working days. He’s biked countless races to raise money for charity. In his 70’s, he was logging as many as 500 miles a week, pedaling for good causes.

Kirkwood man  
to cycle 75 miles  
on 75th birthday



Charlie Ries will take part in his 18th bike tour Sept.

And when he wasn’t on two wheels, he’d be on four, using his car to shuttle fellow older adults in his neighborhood to important medical appointments.

**“The moment I walked through the doors here 20 years ago, I knew this must be the best nonprofit you’ll ever find,”** he says of his first encounter with Shepherd’s Center. Two decades of committed volunteer leadership ensued as he faithfully shuttled his older neighbors from appointment to appointment, keeping them healthy and active.

Sadly, a fall left Charlie with a broken pelvis six years ago, forcing him to turn in both his bicycle and car. Suddenly this very mobile, gregarious man found his world a lot more closed off. Now without wheels of his own, Charlie turned to a place he knew well: Shepherd’s Center.

Today, a group that he gave so much volunteer time to over the years is now his lifeline back out into the world, providing him with the rides he now needs for doctor’s appointments.

Being car-less hasn’t stopped Charlie from continuing to volunteer for Shepherd’s Center though. Today, the 88-year-old remains a key advocate in our work, constantly drumming up new volunteers, donors, and riders.

**“Shepherd’s Center is so much more than just rides,” he says. “It’s a lifeline for people like me. I’ll take the rides, but I will always give back, too.”**

In 2020, Shepherd’s Center is putting wheels on an exciting and bold expansion program to extend our reach to serve our neighbors in Affton – an area with

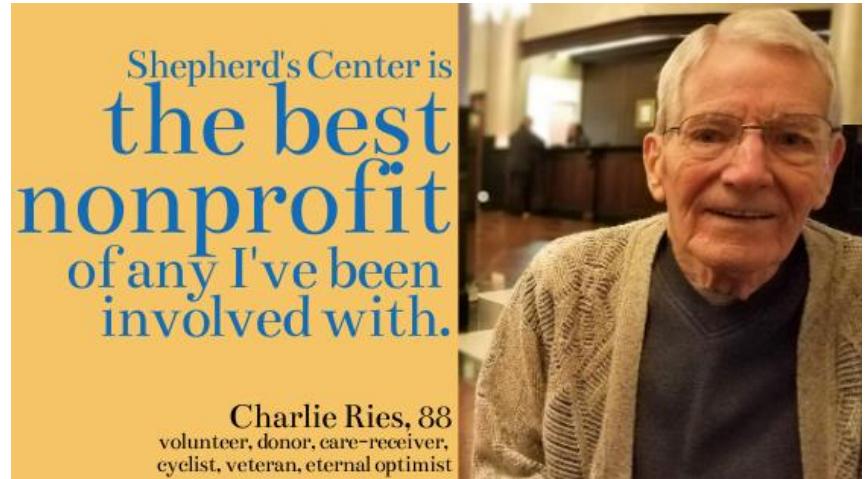
**“I believe in giving back all I can in life.”**



one of the largest populations of older adults and sadly few senior transportation options.

As Charlie says, Shepherd's Center is much more than just rides. Our door-*through*-door service (the only one in the area) allows for one-on-one interaction with riders from the moment drivers arrive until riders return home. Not only does each one get a ride, they have meaningful conversations and interactions for a part of their day – in the car and in waiting rooms. Countless friendships have been made in these times – an important counterbalance to the loneliness and isolation that is reality for too many older adults.

With rider requests up by 25% and growing – and a very needed program expansion coming – Charlie is doubling down to make sure that more older adults like him have the services they need to remain connected to friends, family, and community services.



**Charlie is reaching a little deeper this year to do more good. Will you join him in growing Shepherd's Center with a donation to make 2020 our best year yet?**

Happiest of holidays,

*Betsy Solomon* *Dick Entenmann* *C. H. Ries*

Betsy Solomon  
Executive Director

Dick Entenmann  
Board Chair

Charlie Ries  
Volunteer, donor & care-receiver

**PS. We're delighted to also take credit cards gifts using the enclosed card or made online at [www.shepherdscenter-wk.org](http://www.shepherdscenter-wk.org)**