Gray Matters

Newsletter of The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond
Winter 2019

SAVE THE DATE!

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE SHEPHERD’S CENTER OF RICHMOND WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 19TH, 2019, in the University of Richmond’s Jepson Center. This special occasion will honor the volunteers who have made The Shepherd’s Center what the organization is, as the Center celebrates 35 years of service to Richmond. All volunteers and members will receive an invitation. Want to be at the party? (You don’t want to miss it!) Then support TSCOR’s mission and become a volunteer or member today!

Pictured above: A snapshot from the 30th Anniversary Birthday Bash held in 2014.

From the Executive Director

As we celebrate our Shepherd’s Center’s 35th anniversary this year, we enter a pivotal time in its history. Since last summer, we have been restructuring our operations so that long-time, dedicated volunteers can retire their leadership roles. In this process, we are trying out different approaches and are open to suggestions. Several volunteers stepped up and have brought “new eyes” to the mix, which is vital in an organization like ours. We don’t want to become complacent and settle for the status quo. We have to continually adapt to the changing times so that we remain relevant to our target population. And that population is different from that of the generation before. The when and how of retirement are not the same as they used to be, and continuing to attract more Richmonders is essential to the Center’s future.

Let me be quite honest here. If we do not get more members, students and volunteers to help manage our programs and services, the Center will suffer. Please don’t let that happen. There are plenty of areas where you are needed to help older adults remain active and engaged. That’s what we are all about and this is our mission. We have a great model that can be molded to facilitate the needs of those 50 and older today. I’ve said it before and I’ll keep reminding you – this is your organization – what do you want it to be?

This year, we have encouraged recruitment with a Member Get a Member campaign, giving $5 off next year’s membership for each new member you get to join. It continues through next June, so take advantage of it, and if you like The Shepherd’s Center, please share your enjoyment and help our numbers grow. Every one of you is an ambassador and our future existence depends on you! Let’s keep celebrating anniversaries, OK?

- Julie Adams-Buchanan, Executive Director
Driven to Serve. TSCOR drivers gathered together this past October for a group photo during the annual drivers’ meeting. Last fiscal year we added 36 new clients, but only 12 new drivers. This means our current roster of drivers continues to go above and beyond to see that clients get to the doctor and grocery store. What would our clients do without these “angels on earth?” If you would like to drive or know of someone who might be interested, please contact the office at 804-355-7282.

OU Kid! It’s Worth It!

Are you getting your money’s worth at the Open University? We like to think so, but let’s take a look at your investment from a purely dollars-and-cents point of view.

You have paid $45 in tuition for an eight-week session. Let’s say you take only one course at one site. That comes to around $5.63 per week. Pretty good deal, especially if you have to miss one class for a doctor’s appointment. What if you took two classes at one site for that same $45? Wow! Only $2.82 each per week. Less than a Starbucks frappuccino.

Suppose you love taking courses so much that you also go to another site and take two more offerings! Folks, we are down to a mere $1.41 per class per week - the cost of a large Hershey bar and better for you. (The mind reels at what the amount would be if you threw in Feldenkrais or Russian in the afternoon!)

What happens if you can’t do OU, but you have dutifully paid your $25 membership fee. Do you remember that you get to attend all 60 of those fabulous lunch speakers during the year at no extra cost? Okay, the 12 at St. Mary are already free, so how do you come out per lecture? That’s a $25 membership divided by 48 speakers, or about 52 cents per lunch session. Why are folks not lining up in droves just to be a member?!

We know that you care also about getting good value for your money, and we think that we provide that as well. The Shepherd’s Center offers some of the best courses and lunch speakers around. If you think so, too, help us spread the word this anniversary year to your neighbors, friends, and even your in-laws about what a great deal the Shepherd’s Center is. OU Kid! Your money is well spent!

Do You Have the Drive?
Stay active, independent and engaged.
Volunteer with TSCOR and drive seniors to medical appointments and grocery stores.
www.TSCOR.org 804-355-7282

All Things Open University

Weather Policy Changes
If Richmond Public Schools are CLOSED for weather, then Open University classes are CANCELLED. If Richmond Public Schools are DELAYED, then Open University is OPEN and classes start at the usual time of 9:45. Closing notices are posted on Channels 6 and 8 and on the TSCOR website. If you haven’t already done so, please enter your email address on the website to receive notification of important announcements by email. www.tscor.org

Calendar Collection
Thank you to all the students who donated their calendars for the Meals On Wheels drive. We collected almost 200 calendars!

Look for a full page OU schedule in Fifty Plus.
The OU schedule will appear in a full page ad in January’s issue of Fifty Plus. Pick up an extra copy and share it with a friend! On stands around the first or second week in January.

Mark your calendars!
Winter OU session begins Monday, January 14, and runs through Thursday, March 7. Spring OU session begins Monday, March 25, and runs through Thursday, May 23.
Men's & Women's Groups

Men's Group meets monthly for lunch, sharing experiences, knowledge, ideas. Contact Jim Evans: jameslevans@yahoo.com.

Women's Group meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:30 in room 218 of First Presbyterian Church, 4602 Cary Street Road. The group is informal, and members mutually decide on the topics covered and speakers invited, with lunch and field trip outings between meetings. It's free for TSCOR members! Contact Julie Adams-Buchanan: jadams@tscor.org, or Rosie Shomaker: roshogreen@msn.com.

In Memoriam
Donna Knicely
Laurel Lonnes
William May
Sandra Miller
Frank Potee
Larry Robinson
Helen Tanner

Men's & Women's Groups

In-Kind Donations
- Anne Harrison for stamps and cards
- Sue McLain for refreshments during PR committee meeting, and hand-made thank-you cards
- First Baptist Church for meeting space

Donors

Individuals
- General: $5,029
- Memorials: $270
- Annual Appeal: $13,540
- In Honor: $420
- Stock: $7,212.70
- Anonymous: $10,000

Groups
- Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
- St. James Episcopal Church
- St. Mary Catholic Church
- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, ECW
- Weinstein Properties

TSCOR’S Impact Measured in Thanks

To show the widespread impact of TSCOR’s mission, the development committee asked participants across the organization why they are thankful for TSCOR. Here’s what they say:

“My life has been enriched by the wonderful new people I have met at the Shepherd’s Center - from the students in my class to my table mates at lunch!”
- Susie Wiltshire, board member

“I am thankful for the warm welcome I received from everyone associated with TSCOR! I am also thankful for the inspiration and example that the Open University attendees have given me, reminding me that education and volunteerism truly are life-long endeavors!”
- Rosemary McCracken, staff, Lifelong Learning Coordinator

“For twenty years I have looked forward to Thursdays at the SC. It is a very important part of my life...the classes, teachers, friends and cake!”
- Fay French, Open University student

“We've been members of the Shepherd's Center for over 13 years. We love the Open University's easy camaraderie, the variety of class offerings and the always challenging and inspirational lunch speakers. We've come to mark our week by our Open University day and feel just a bit off schedule when it's not in session. Grady has thoroughly enjoyed entertaining folks with his music over the years.”
- Grady and Rosie Whitehorne, Open University students

“I can't thank you enough for all the wonderful drivers you have and for your service. Thanks again, it all means so much to me!”
- Barbara S., client

“I've met some delightful people driving for the Shepherd's Center. Though I always like meeting new clients, I love to sign up to drive people I've met before, and I fret about how they are if I don't see them on the list of people needing rides for a spell. The Shepherd's Center clients enrich my life in many ways and make this volunteer work a pleasure!”
- Melinda Davis, driver

“I enjoy meeting the clients. People are so interesting!”
- Jill Miller, driver

Travel with TSCOR

Join us for TSCOR's next excursion on March 28, 2019, for a two-day bus trip to historic Abingdon and Lexington, Virginia. We'll travel to southwest Virginia with the Blue Ridge mountains as our backdrop, spend the night at the Martha Washington Inn, and attend an evening performance of Camelot at the Barter Theatre. The trip includes guided bus tours of Abingdon and Lexington with several stops to sightsee and shop.

Later in the spring we’re planning two trips: one to visit Pamplin Historic Park, and a second local trip to “Re-Discover Richmond.” Details will be announced on all trips. For more information visit www.tscor.org, call Paula Grimes at 355-7282, or Mary Maiden, travel chair, at 272-8636.

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We would like to thank St. Mary Catholic Church for its continued support of The Shepherd’s Center of Richmond and the Lunch and Life program.

www.TSCOR.org
Like us on Facebook:
Shepherd’s Center of Richmond

Upcoming Group Travel
Travel to Abingdon and Lexington, Virginia and see Camelot at the Barter Theatre.
March 28, 2019
Visit the Travel tab at www.tscor.org for details!

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