



the SHEPHERD'S CENTER of CHARLOTTE, inc.

For Immediate Release

Change in leadership opens new possibilities for Shepherd's Center of Charlotte

Date: April 10, 2007

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Charlotte, NC: Shepherd's Center of Charlotte is exploring new programs and services amid a change in leadership. On the heels of bidding farewell to Brigid Norton, the only Executive Director the Center has ever known, new leadership is now in place and ready to take the organization to the next level.

The Center has named Linda R. Pellerin as executive director. She began her new duties on April 1, 2007. Formerly the Director of Public Relations for the Better Business Bureau of Southern Piedmont, Ms. Pellerin brings a wealth of experience to the Shepherd's Center. With a background in radio journalism, fundraising, management and public relations, Ms. Pellerin's overall experience will help her to maintain current programs and develop new interests for older adults in the Charlotte area. "As baby boomers transition to retirement, they'll be looking for enriching ways to give back to the community. The Shepherd's Center is the perfect vehicle for them with programs designed to benefit older adults in need as well as older adults looking for volunteer opportunities." Pellerin said. "The Shepherd's Center has a 27-year history in Charlotte and I hope to further spread the word about our excellent programs and services." Under consideration are a legal aide program to help older adults sort out issues concerning wills, powers of attorney and other legal issues; and an adopt-a-grandparent service where volunteers from the community would visit a particular senior to make sure they have everything they need and are taking care of themselves.

In addition, The Shepherd's Center of Charlotte has a new Board President. Dr. Julian Albergotti, MD (retired) assumed his new duties as of April 1, 2007. Dr. Albergotti is the retired Medical Director of BellSouth in Charlotte where he served as the senior medical executive for the region, leading broad company policy development and implementation of medical and occupational programs for the company. Before working for BellSouth, Dr. Albergotti spent 19 years as a partner in a general family practice in Charlotte. In this capacity, he served a broad panel of clinical and lower socio-economic patients, practicing rural and community-based medicine.

Dr. Albergotti will serve two years as Board President of The Shepherd's Center of Charlotte and he's excited at the prospect of watching the Center grow, "The aging population is changing from what it used to be 30 years ago. People are retiring earlier and for the most part are healthier. With all the wonderful programs offered to older adults by The Shepherd's Center, these retirees have the opportunity to make a difference in the community." Dr. Albergotti said the Center is the perfect place for new retirees, "These are people who were trying to make a difference in the 60's. They care about the environment and about the community. They are inquisitive and eager to learn new things. The Shepherd's Center offers a program called **Adventures in Learning** where older adults may continue their education by learning about the things that really interest them. This is a great avenue to helping them get involved."

Other programs offered by The Shepherd's Center include the **Companion Aide Program** which is a referral program offering home health aid to homebound and disabled older adults; the **Handyman Service** which provides help for the little things that may need fixing around the home; a **Tax Service** for those who have trouble sorting out the new tax laws; help from volunteers who can counsel on the appropriate plan for **Medicare Part D**; volunteers who provide rides to medical appointments and the grocery store; a **Travel Club** for those who want to see more of the southeast and much more.

Three new Board members have also joined The Shepherd's Center of Charlotte.

John N. (Nick) Beard, M.D. (retired) Occupational Medicine Department, Charlotte Orthopedic Specialists, working primarily in occupational health and pediatrics. Dr. Beard also is a member of the Carolinas Occupational Medicine Association, and member emeritus of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Mecklenburg County Medical Society and North Carolina State Medical Society.

Mr. Al J. Dickens, Jr is currently a residential real estate investor, but until his retirement was the owner of the real estate brokerage firm of Dickens, Mitchener & Associates. In the past, he has served as a member of the local Board of Realtors, Board of Deacons at Myers Park Country Club and is currently a member of the Board of Visitors at Lees McRae College in Banner Elk, NC. Mr. Dickens is a member of Myers Park United Methodist Church and has served as a member of the Administrative Board.

Mrs. Alice Smyth is an interior decorator who was able to find time to run the family farm, raise three children and teach Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church. She also has been involved with Jr. League and the Mint Museum's Women's Auxiliary and she served on the Arts & Science Council Board.

The Shepherd's Center of Charlotte welcomes these new additions. For more information about The Shepherd's Center of Charlotte, visit our Web site at www.shepherdscharlotte.org.