



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 3, 2023**

### **The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem Receives State Senior Center Certification of Excellence**

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem was re-certified as a *Senior Center of Excellence* by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services based on an on-site certification visit conducted March 21, 2023. The certification is for a five year period, from March 2023 through March 2028.

There are 170 senior centers in 95 of the 100 counties in North Carolina. There are 92 certified centers of which 83 are centers of excellence. The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem is one of two state-certified senior centers of excellence in Forsyth County.

The review team that conducted the certification visit included representatives from the Division of Aging and Adult Services, the Area Agency on Aging and two other senior center directors from the region.

Kristin Larson, Vital Living Program Director; and Sam Matthews, Executive Director, said that the review team noted the Shepherd's Center does an excellent job of establishing and maintaining strong community partnerships and collaborations, as evidenced in the many co-sponsored programs and off-site locations for activities with partnering organizations. Additionally, the center was cited for the use of many community sites for program activities, making it one of the best examples in the state of a "center without walls".

According to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, a multipurpose senior center is a community facility where older adults come together for services and activities that reflect their skills and interests and respond to their diverse needs. Centers are a resource for the entire community, providing services and information on aging, and assisting family and friends who care for older adults.

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