



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AGEWELL MIDDLE TENNESSEE ANNOUNCES 2022 SAGE AWARD WINNERS**

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Recognizes Community Leaders Across Region

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** -- [AgeWell Middle Tennessee](#), the area's trusted resource and catalyst for solutions for older adults and family caregivers, today announced the winners of the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Sage Awards, honoring lifelong leaders who improve our communities, and organizations that significantly impact the lives of older adults across the region.

The 2022 recipients include **Dr. David and Lynn Palmer Barton**, co-founders of Alive, the first hospice in the Southeast, former Robertson County Mayor **Howard Bradley**, community volunteer and former Tennessee Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources **Mercedes Lytle**, community volunteer and retired Volunteer State Community College educator **Vanita Lytle-Sherrill**, African American Heritage Society of Williamson County CEO **Alma McLemore** and community volunteer **Novella Page**.

AgeWell is also honoring the **Senior Citizens Awareness Network (SCAN) of Wilson and Rutherford Counties**, developed by the Wilson and Rutherford County Sheriff's Offices, to take a proactive approach to address the needs of older adults in their counties.

The awards will be presented on Monday, Oct. 3 during the Sage Awards Ceremony & Fundraiser at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, 700 Cool Springs Blvd., in Franklin, Tenn. Sage Award sponsorships are available on the [AgeWell website](#).

(MORE)

## **SAGE AWARDS – PAGE 2**

The Sage Awards, presented annually since 1992, serves as AgeWell’s signature event and fundraiser. All funds raised directly support the organization’s mission to champion informed and positive aging and serve as the area’s catalyst for collaborative solutions.

“We are proud to recognize these outstanding leaders in Middle Tennessee, who are impacting their communities through their individual efforts and are living proof of positive aging. We look forward to honoring them in October. Their individual accomplishments and their steadfast service exemplify what it means to age well,” said Grace Smith, AgeWell Middle Tennessee’s executive director.

### **ABOUT THE HONOREES**

**Dr. David and Lynn Palmer Barton** (Davidson County) are co-founders of Alive, the first hospice in the Southeast and third in the country. Both have been professional and volunteer leaders in the fields of psychiatry and social work, respectively, and continue to actively support Alive. The Bartons are also involved members of Congregation Ohabai Shalom (The Temple). In addition, both serve on the Temple Mishkan Israel board that is in process of working to preserve the 120-year-old synagogue building in Selma, Alabama, where they grew up.

**David** has served on the full-time and volunteer faculties of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. He also established an interfaith clergyperson group, The Spiritual Alliance for Religious Respect, for the purpose of fostering opposition to hate and religious disrespect. He is a frequent lecturer at the Temple and in the Nashville community.

**Lynn** is a practicing therapist and a volunteer faculty member at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. She was one of the first to introduce the concept and practice of mediation in Tennessee and co-founded local and state mediation organizations, including the Nashville Conflict Resolution Center. Lynn has been active in the Nashville Jewish Community, serving on boards and committees of The Temple, the Council of Jewish Women, and Jewish Family Service.

(MORE)

### **SAGE AWARDS – PAGE 3**

**Howard Bradley** (Robertson County) has been committed to public service in Robertson County and Middle Tennessee with 22 years of service on the Robertson County Commission and career as a dedicated teacher at Springfield High School. He served four terms as mayor of Robertson County and was president of the Tennessee Association of County Mayors. He was a board member and president of Greater Nashville Regional Council (GRNC) and served on the boards of the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee, Bransford Community Center, Highland Crest Campus of Volunteer State Community College, Regional Transit Authority, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He has also been a leader for the Kiwanis Club of Springfield. Bradley is an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Springfield.

**Mercedes Lytle** (Davidson County) was a Fisk University Jubilee Singer while in college. She spent 27 years working with talented minority youth and corporations at INROADS before becoming an Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources, State of Tennessee. She has served on the boards of many nonprofits, including Insight Counseling Centers, the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and Leadership Nashville Alumni Association. She has been a volunteer leader with FiftyForward, serving in many capacities and as president of the board of directors. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Over the decades, she has volunteered with the YWCA, United Way, Nashville CARES and Hope Station, Inc. Lytle is a long-standing member of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Vanita Lytle-Sherrill** (Davidson County) is a lifelong resident of Nashville and a graduate of Fisk University. She enjoyed an outstanding career as a professor of Sociology and Human Services and Dean of Social Science and Education at Volunteer State Community College where she founded the "Volunteers in Action" program, which impacted the lives of hundreds of young adults. She has served on the boards for many nonprofits, including The West End Home Foundation, Westminster Home Connection, Peabody College Alumni Board, Alive Hospice, the R. H. Boyd Family Endowment Fund and the Leadership Nashville Alumni board, among many others. She is a charter member of The Temple Church and an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**Alma McLemore** (Williamson County) is a native of Williamson County and is the president and executive director of the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County. For over two decades, she served on the Franklin Municipal Planning commission. She is a graduate of Franklin Citizens Police Academy and Leadership Franklin. She is a member of the Franklin Housing Commission, Battle of Franklin Trust and the Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

(MORE)

## **SAGE AWARDS – PAGE 4**

McLemore is a past member of Columbia State Community College Foundation Board and the 21st Recovery Court Board of Directors. She has served on the boards of the Community Housing Partnership, WAVES, Franklin Tomorrow, New Hope Academy, Williamson County Chamber of Commerce Affordable Housing Taskforce, Mercy's Children Clinic, United Community Resource Foundation, Franklin Tomorrow's Housing Task Force and United Way of Williamson County Task Force. She is an active, lifelong member of the Fowlkes Street Church of Christ.

**Novella Page** (Davidson County) was an active participant in the nonviolent civil rights sit-ins of the 1960s. Her picture, sitting at the counter at Woolworth's, is on display at the Tennessee State Museum and at the Muhammad Ali Civil Rights Museum. She is a lifetime member of Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church where she teaches the adult Sunday school class and has coordinated the Meals on Wheels outreach ministry for more than 25 years. She has been an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. for more than 60 years. She has volunteered for organizations focusing on education and counseling and served on the boards of the Metro Nashville Education Association and Metro Housing Authority.

**Senior Citizens Awareness Network (SCAN) of Wilson and Rutherford Counties**, developed by the Wilson and Rutherford County Sheriff's Offices, takes a proactive approach to addressing the needs of older adults in their counties. SCAN Officers are uniformed representatives of the Sheriff's Office who volunteer to check on the safety and security of older citizens who have enrolled in the program.

SCAN secures donations from the community to help meet needs like home repairs, transportation and arranging benefits or services. SCAN volunteers also provide home security surveys, crime prevention information, and information related to local social and community services. These SCAN programs and volunteers have made a significant and positive impact on the lives of hundreds of older adults in Middle Tennessee, and they show us how a community can come together to honor and care for older residents. Debbie Pare' and Sheriff Robert Bryan will represent Wilson County SCAN. Sheriff Mike Fitzhugh and Clarence and E.T. Guice will represent Rutherford County SCAN.

Sage Award honorees (couples, individuals and organizations) are selected by the Sage Awards Committee from nominations received from the community. The committee, which is comprised of past Sage Award recipients, AgeWell board members and volunteers, may also consider nominations from previous years. Eligibility includes older adults (age 55 and older) living in the 13-county region served by AgeWell Middle Tennessee, and organizations who have made a significant impact on the lives of older adults.

(MORE)

## **SAGE AWARDS – PAGE 5**

### **ABOUT AGEWELL MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

AgeWell Middle Tennessee champions informed and positive aging, connects older adults and family caregivers with trusted information and community resources in 13 Middle Tennessee counties, and serves as a catalyst to address unmet needs. Founded as the Council on Aging of Greater Nashville in 1985, AgeWell is a thought leader, convener, catalyst and advocate for collaborative solutions to ensure we can all age well.

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