



June 16, 2014

The Honorable Chester A. McPherson
Acting Commissioner
Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking
810 First Street, N.E., Suite 710
Washington, DC 20002

219 RIGGS ROAD NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20011
PHONE (202) 269-2277
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Dear Acting Commissioner McPherson:

Food & Friends is pleased to submit this letter of commendation for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield. Our organization greatly appreciates the sustained interest demonstrated by CareFirst in helping Food & Friends meet the needs of critically ill residents in Greater Washington.

Food & Friends was established in 1988 by a group of dedicated volunteers who were interested in addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis among District residents by providing and delivering simple and nourishing meals to the homes of men and women too ill to cook for themselves. In 2000, we expanded our services to serve people with other life-challenging illnesses, primarily cancer. Since our beginning, our mission has been to foster a community caring for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-challenging illnesses by preparing and delivering specialized meals and groceries in conjunction with nutrition counseling. In our 25 year history, we are proud to have served more than 17 million meals, free of charge, in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is an important partner in achieving our goals. I write this letter to provide you with information on how CareFirst's community mission and generosity has directly and positively impacted our organization and the communities that we serve.

Since 2006, Food & Friends has received nearly \$900,000 in grants to support nutrition programming for critically ill residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. CareFirst's funding has allowed us to increase our capacity in providing meals to residents battling a life-challenging illness. Specifically, CareFirst's investment in our Groceries-to-Go program ensures that all clients receive a regular supply of fresh fruits and vegetables.

As you can see from the foregoing information, CareFirst's community giving has enabled our organization to better serve the community. If you need any further information on the impact that CareFirst's giving has had on our organization and community, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 269-6839 or cshniderman@foodandfriends.org.

Sincerely,

Craig Shniderman
Executive Director