



June 2014

Four Decades of Nurturing Friendship and Independence for Older Americans

Dear Senior Companion Project Directors:

On this, the 40th anniversary of the Senior Companion program, I pause to reflect on the historical nature of the program and how it has evolved over the years. Borne out of a mission to provide meaningful volunteer service opportunities for low-income older persons to help others remain independent, the program has become a much needed service in a continuum of care for numerous frail individuals. In the process, the service that Senior Companion volunteers provide has brought peace of mind to caregivers and, as research supports, an improved quality of life for the Companions themselves.

It has been said that the strength of our communities is determined by how we help our most vulnerable citizens. The service that Senior Companion projects provide positively impacts thousands of lives. The friendship and interdependence between the client and the Senior Companion is the bridge that keeps both client and Senior Companion connected to the community, thus making that community stronger.

As our nation's population continues to age, and the need for Companion services rises, our challenge will be to move forward with a continued commitment to provide that friendship and independence for those who are less able to stand alone.

On behalf of Senior Corps of the Corporation for National and Community Service, I thank you for your service to the program, congratulate you on this significant milestone of 40 years of service to communities, and wish you continued success in the years to come.

Best wishes,

Ewri J Tan M.D.

Director, Senior Corps