



For Immediate Release

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NIH Federal Credit Union receives 2019 Partnership of the Year Award with Friends of Patients at the NIH

Potomac, MD (February 8, 2019). The National Institutes of Health Federal Credit Union (NIHFCU) received the 2019 Partnership of the Year Award from Leadership Montgomery (LM) and the Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC).

The NIHFCU proudly accepted this award at LMs Annual Corporate Volunteer Luncheon, a gathering of local business, political and other distinguished guests, which recognizes local businesses for their support to the Montgomery County community through employee volunteer engagement. Members of the public were asked to nominate organizations and businesses in one of six award categories. Winners were selected by an independent committee consisting of local leaders and previous award winners.

“We are so proud to honor the NIH Federal Credit Union for making a difference through employee volunteerism.” said C. Marie Taylor, President & CEO of Leadership Montgomery. “We hope that by casting a spotlight on their tremendous efforts, more businesses will be inspired to engage their employees and give back to the local community through service.”

Cassandra Hairston, NIHFCU’s Vice President of Community Engagement stated, “We are thrilled to bring the credit union’s ‘people helping people’ approach to financial services into the communities we are proud to service.” She added, “I am so pleased to accept this award on behalf of our entire staff. It is a great honor for us to be recognized for our partnership with Friends of Patients at the NIH, and our passion and commitment to volunteerism. It is great to know our efforts are making a real difference in the lives of many.”

NIHFCU’s community engagement program, RISE (Respect, Inspire, Support, Engage) - whether through volunteerism, sponsorships, advocacy or other civic activities - is a core part of the credit union’s overall business plan, as well as its workforce objectives.

About NIHFCU

The National Institutes of Health Federal Credit Union (NIHFCU) is a full-service not-for-profit financial co-operative based in Rockville, MD. With assets over \$625 million, and its network of branches, ATMs and digital banking systems, the NIHFCU currently serves over 40,000 members, primarily healthcare and biomedical professionals in Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. With a range of accounts, affordable loans and other convenient banking solutions, the credit union is dedicated to helping its members achieve their financial goals for themselves and their families. For more information on the NIHFCU, visit www.nihfcu.org. For details on the credit union’s RISE program, visit, www.nihfcu.org/RISE.

About Friends of Patients at the NIH

For more than 30 years, *Friends of Patients at the NIH*, a charity begun by NIH employees, has helped patients enrolled in NIH Clinical trials by providing emergency financial, social and emotional support. *Friends* jumps in when a patient is weighing whether to drop out of a trial due to unanticipated financial or housing needs. The emergency financial support is provided in the forms of housing near the NIH during treatment, transportation costs to and from the NIH Clinical Center, medical equipment and unexpected medical costs, as well as, help to cover costs at home such as rent, mortgage and utility bills so patients can complete research studies. *Friends at NIH* champions NIH patients, helping to cover essential needs so they can focus on recovery, healing and their unique role in health discoveries. We partner with patients and researchers to develop medical breakthroughs and cures that benefit all of us. For more information, visit www.friendsatnih.org.

About Leadership Montgomery

For nearly 30 years, [Leadership Montgomery](http://www.leadershipmontgomery.org) has built bridges between the private, public, and nonprofit sectors of Montgomery County, Maryland to improve the community—the neighborhoods people live in and the businesses they work in. Today, Leadership Montgomery provides six curriculum- and service-based programs: CORE (Connecting Our Region's Execs), Emerging Leaders, Senior Leadership Montgomery, MoCo Insider, and our Corporate Volunteer Council, as well as post-graduate programming, and special events. To date, Leadership Montgomery has graduated over 2,500 leaders, 955 of whom now hold board seats in County-based businesses, supported over 850 local nonprofits with 30,000 hours of volunteer service, and have trained 511 high school and other emerging leaders through our programs.



Pictured left to right:

Kevin Blackerby, Development Officer, *Friends of Patients at the NIH*
Char Silberg, Communications Manager, *Friends of Patients at the NIH*
Steve Levin, Vice President of Marketing & Business Development, NIHFCU
Cassandra Hairston, Vice President for Community Engagement, NIHFCU
C. Marie Taylor, President and CEO, Leadership Montgomery
Jesse Boyer, Executive Vice President and COO, NIHFCU
Therese Draddy, Program Manager, *Friends of Patients at the NIH*
Rick Wieczorek, President and CEO, NIHFCU