



# FOOD & FRIENDS

# REFERRAL PARTNER NEWSLETTER

---

## MARCH 2025

## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP - SEPTEMBER 2024

We hosted our annual Referral Partner Meeting on September 26, 2024 with 183 registrants! This meeting was a great opportunity for referral partners to put names to faces and be updated on our policies and guidelines. We had a whole host of fantastic questions from our guests as well as a plethora of information shared throughout the two hour meeting. We hope that those who attended enjoyed it and that it was steeped in beneficial knowledge. Thank you to everyone who joined and we hope to see you all in the next one!

In the mean time, If you would be interested in receiving a training about our services, please feel free to contact our Client Relations Coordinator, Absa Fall, to set something up! We would be happy to accommodate your request and get your new staff familiar with our services.

## LIMITING REFERRALS

In today's constantly changing political climate, Food & Friends remains committed to our mission of supporting our clients through medically tailored meals, nutritional counselling, and community building. Unfortunately, we have been faced with slashed Ryan White federal funding from those that don't see the value of the work that we do. This is why we have made the difficult decision to adjust the referral process for our HIV/AIDS clients as we try and serve as many as possible with a tighter budget.

We will continue to explain what that means in the next coming months but as of now we have limited enrollments to **5 referrals per month, per agency**. Additionally, while we still will not have a wait list for our clients, you may start noticing up to a 30 day delay before we start a new client where we used to be able to start them within a week.

### Message from Client Services Director

As we start off this new year, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your dedication and partnership. Your commitment to serving individuals and families in need has been instrumental in creating meaningful change in our communities. May this year bring you and your clients' prosperity, happiness, and improved health. Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities we have to strengthen our collaboration, enhance our services, and continue making a lasting impact. We look forward to hearing from you as you provide feedback through our Referral Partner Survey and sharing with you through our Referral Partner Meeting in the fall. Together, we will navigate challenges, celebrate successes, and ensure that those who rely on us receive the best possible support.

Phyllis Givens



219 Riggs Road NE Washington, DC 20011  
www.foodandfriends.org  
United Way #8429 CFC #52114



## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

We now have an exciting new partnership with Howard University Center to serve our renowned medically tailored meals for those who get treated for Sickle Cell Disease within the hospital. It is time for us to expand our eligibility requirements and we are proud to be able to expand the client base and serve more people in need. To clarify, as of right now our partnership is only with Howard University, this means that we only accept Sickle Cell client referrals that come through the university. You can learn more about this wonderful development by [clicking here](#).

Furthermore, the American Kidney Fund has collaborated with Food & Friends to bring support and to those in the DMV region living with kidney disease. This new connection means increased access to resources for our clients, whether that means direct financial assistance, educational webinars, or an advocacy network that will defend their needs. You can learn more at [www.kidneyfund.org](http://www.kidneyfund.org).

## RP SPOTLIGHT

In this latest edition of the Referral Partner Newsletter, we decided to highlight one of you! Our first spotlight goes to Amanda Barber (MS, RD, CNSC), a dietitian at Inova Schar.



### **What is it like working as a dietitian with cancer patients and navigating food safety with them as they go through different treatment therapies?**

Food safety is an important part of the overall education that we provide to patients beginning treatment. We also focus on meeting energy and protein requirements in the setting of challenging treatment side effects. Our goal is to prevent unintentional weight loss which can negatively impact tolerance to treatment, fatigue level and recovery time.

### **Where does your passion for food come from and what made you want to become a dietitian?**

I have always enjoyed cooking, being in the kitchen, and spending time with others. Becoming a dietitian has allowed me to apply this passion to patients and their households as well.

### **As a long time referral partner of Food & Friends, what do you think of our organization and its ability to help serve your clients?**

My patients are always grateful to be connected with Food & Friends. Receiving prepared meals or groceries allows them to focus their energy on attending and recovering from their treatments.

## Contact Information

### **Phyllis Givens**

Client Services Director  
[pgivens@foodandfriends.org](mailto:pgivens@foodandfriends.org)  
(202) 269-6823

### **Absa Fall**

Client Relations Coordinator  
[afall@foodandfriends.org](mailto:afall@foodandfriends.org)  
(202) 269-6820

### **Sophie Bennett**

Recertification Coordinator  
[sbennett@foodandfriends.org](mailto:sbennett@foodandfriends.org)  
(202) 269-6847

### **Zack Henstrand**

Client Services Advocate  
[zhenstrand@foodandfriends.org](mailto:zhenstrand@foodandfriends.org)  
(202) 269-6897

### **Mira Kauffman-Rosengarten**

Intake Coordinator  
[mkauffman-rosengarten@foodandfriends.org](mailto:mkauffman-rosengarten@foodandfriends.org)  
(202) 269-6825

### **Hayley Murguia**

Client Services Advocate  
[hmurguia@foodandfriends.org](mailto:hmurguia@foodandfriends.org)  
(202) 269-6886

### **Kiara Isaias Day**

Avodah Service Corps Member  
[kisaias-day@foodandfriends.org](mailto:kisaias-day@foodandfriends.org)  
(202) 269-6881

