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Cynthia Wainscott, Chair of the Board ■ Michael M. Faenza, President and CEO

January 6, 2004

Mr. Robert Goodwin
President and CEO
Points of Light Foundation
1499 I Street, NW, Suite # 800
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

The National Mental Health Association (NMHA) is elated about the prospect of honoring our founder, Clifford W. Beers, as part of the new national monument your organization is planning in Washington, DC.

Beers, who was a former psychiatric patient, established the modern mental health movement in 1909. During his stays in public and private institutions, Beers witnessed and was subjected to horrible abuse. From these experiences, Beers set into motion a reform movement that eventually took shape as NMHA. His courage and fortitude has made an enormously positive impact on millions of American's and their families, certainly worthy of this prestigious honor.

NMHA is the country's oldest and largest nonprofit organization addressing all aspects of mental health and mental illness. With more than 340 affiliates nationwide, NMHA works to improve the mental health of Americans of all ages, cultures and backgrounds through advocacy, education, research and service. In pursuing its mission, set forth by Clifford W. Beers and his compatriots, NMHA works toward a just, humane and healthy society in which all people are accorded respect, dignity and the opportunity to achieve their full potential from stigma and prejudice.

Please share this letter of endorsement with potential signature sponsors who may want to underwrite Mr. Beers' portion of the monument. We commend your for the work your are doing in promoting volunteerism and are grateful for recognizing Mr. Beers and the important work of the National Mental Health Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael M. Faenza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael M. Faenza, MSSW
President and CEO

