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February 28, 2009

Dear Nominating Committee Staff,

I am pleased to endorse Steve Braun, who is an immense help to our organization. In the 28 years I have known Steve, he has always been involved in community service. He was the first person to offer his unconditional support to me at Partnership for Cures, and he did so without being asked! His attitude has always been, "I'm ready. What can I do?" Seven years later, Steve continues to find new ways to help us find and then fund new treatments and cures for patients in two years or less, and he recently made the ultimate commitment in time and financial support by joining our Executive Board.

Steve is neither a researcher nor a physician, so he cannot work in the lab or with patients. But he is an extraordinary volunteer leader and philanthropist who can and does make sure that these medical professionals have the funding to make these better treatments and cures a reality right now.

Steve is passionate about our mission to find, validate, and manage medical research to cure disease. In the last three years, Steve has directly helped us create breakthroughs being used by over one million patients: a safe, low-cost life-saving treatment for the childhood disease Familial Dysautonomia, the first safe and successful treatment for the deadly children's disease Autoimmune Lympho-Proliferative Syndrome, a treatment extending the lives of multiple myeloma cancer patients, the first human clinical trial to cure Type I Diabetes at Harvard Medical School, a non-drug treatment that significantly improves multiple sclerosis symptoms, and a way to improve the success rates of 600,000 annual bone marrow transplants for blood cancers from 20% to 80% with no increased cost or risk!

Steve is known at NMFN as an extraordinary marketer and networker. He brings those skills to Partnership for Cures with a passion. Dozens of philanthropists are involved in our work as a direct result of Steve's matchmaking.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this program. If Steve is selected, the award would support our Pediatric Cancer Impact Program that will find better treatments for kids with cancer in the next two years. More than 10,000 children and adolescents in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year. Some of the most frequent cancers have reached cure rates exceeding 80%. Still, relapsed and chemo-resistant cancers represent the second-most entity seen by pediatric oncologists. The outcomes for these children could be greatly enhanced if approved drugs not known to have anti-cancer properties could be tested to see if they do have any anti-cancer properties. The awarding of this grant could make that possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bruce E. Bloom
President and Chief Science Officer