



# UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL of MEDICINE

January 14, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for Nature Links for Lifelong Learning. This new organization seeks to address the needs of employable young adults with developmental disabilities (primarily between 22 and 30 years of age) who have aged out of the Miami-Dade County public school system and often don't meet criteria for college enrollment. Unfortunately, there are few adequate training programs after individuals leave the public school system. There is a gap in programming needs for this population and Nature Links fills this by offering creative job training, positive social interaction, and develop more independent life skills. The value of the unique Nature Links curriculum is that it is focused on jobs in culinary arts, but encompasses the value of great utility including organic gardening.

Dr. Bush has long been a passionate advocate of good public planning, creative use of public parks, and he has a positive vision for the Miami community. The unique aspect of the curriculum is its holistic approach, Dr. Bush and his colleagues have included topics on landscape and culinary arts, health and well being, marine studies and weather. Nature Links has forged collaborative relationships with the Miami Culinary Institute, the City of Miami, MDCPS, UM-CARD, Virginia Key and Fairchild Tropical Gardens.

The primary mission of the Mailman Center for Child Development at University of Miami School of Medicine is to aid children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. We offer clinical services, research studies, and training programs designed to improve the lives of children and young adults with disabilities. The goals of Nature Links are entirely consistent with our mission, and we are thrilled to support Nature Links' efforts to improve opportunities for young adults with developmental disabilities. In particular, we can lend our expertise in program development and assessment, related clinical services, and collaborative grant writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Armstrong'.

Daniel Armstrong, PhD

Professor & Executive Vice Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Director, Mailman Center for Child Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Brosco'.

Jeffrey Brosco, MD, PhD

Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
Associate Director, Mailman Center for Child Development