

THE



SUN

baltimoresun.com

Informing more than 1 million Maryland readers weekly in print and online
Price: \$1.50 Our 100th year No. 215

WEDNESDAY
October 2, 2013

READERS RESPOND

CareFirst is a public health leader

I was frankly appalled by the recent letter to the editor, "Does CareFirst care?" (Sept. 29). The statements made in this letter are so far removed from reality that it's almost hard to fathom. CareFirst is among the most generous funders we have. Over the last five years, they have granted the Y of Central Maryland more than \$1.3 million. These funds have supported critically needed programs addressing the public health crisis of childhood obesity. In total, many thousands of children throughout Central Maryland have been taught healthy habits of regular activity and good nutrition, contributing to a reversal of lifestyle patterns that can cause generational cycles of poor health.

CareFirst is similarly supportive of critically important health programs run by the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, helping youth and seniors stay active and educated about healthy lifestyles.

CareFirst has repeatedly shown itself as a leading partner in the development and dissemination of strategies that are making our community healthier, focusing on those most at-risk and always answering our calls for help. The irony of the letter is that just two days prior to its publication, Y of Central Maryland staff and kids had the privilege of walking on the field in Camden Yards to accept a \$280,000 check from CareFirst to help our efforts to fight childhood obesity!

The record needs to be corrected and indeed stands for itself. CareFirst is a generous and committed leader continuously supporting causes that strengthen our community.

John K. Hoey, Baltimore

The writer is president and CEO of the Y of Central Maryland.