

Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries

Recognized as one of the “Best Small Charities in the Washington Region”

A 2004/2005 *Catalogue for Philanthropy* Charity

Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries was selected as a Greater Washington *Catalogue for Philanthropy* charity from an applicant pool of over 250 candidates. According to Barbara Harman, executive director of the Harman Family Foundation, "Charities were selected for excellence, innovation, and cost-effectiveness--and for what they can teach us about the extraordinary ways that philanthropy works. These are certainly among the best small charities in the Washington region"

The Catalogue is supported as a community service by area foundations (Harman, Meyer, Cafritz, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac). Grantmakers and leaders from 30 local foundations and nonprofit organizations participated in the selection process out of their strong belief in building the capacity of small nonprofits. Top Banana is one of only 78 organizations that were selected for inclusion in the 2004/2005 guide.



It was only by accident that Top Banana founder Jean Guiffré discovered a secret that her own mother had been keeping for months: in an apartment just minutes from the grocery store, the kitchen cabinets were almost empty. Money wasn't the problem: instead, arthritis and congestive heart failure had robbed her mother of the stamina she needed to walk store aisles and carry heavy bags up the stairs. With this revelation, Top Banana was born, a grocery service that brings food—and independence—to 500 elderly and disabled people a year.

The service is simple and user-friendly: clients place orders by phone, choosing from name brand products, meats, dairy, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables. Groceries are bagged according to “kind”—shelf, fridge, or freezer—and delivered to the door or to the kitchen itself. Drivers will even unpack if needed, loosen jar lids for arthritis sufferers, and, of course, check on clients' well-being.

“Over our 23 years of service, my respect and admiration for each person we serve continues to grow,” comments Guiffré. “Some 35,000 area residents, most over age 75 and alone, find it difficult or impossible to do their own grocery shopping yet desperately want to remain in their own homes and neighborhoods. Their fierce determination and pride make it truly our privilege to help. I only wish we had the resources to help more elders and needy residents. Independence is everything.”

Help Top Banana serve those in need.

**Donations can be made on-line,
www.topbananagroceries.org, by mail or phone.**



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