



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Influential NASCO Vice President to Retire at the End of 2006**

Atlanta, GA – November 13, 2006 – NASCO announces that one of its pioneering vice presidents, Charles "Bud" Blount, will be retiring at the end of this year. Known for wearing many hats since his tenure began in 1987, Bud has spearheaded numerous NASCO milestones. As the company's first marketing vice president, he planted the seeds of the Par Plan network that exists today. He also led NASCO in expanding its services from the original five owners to a wide network of additional BlueCross<sup>®</sup> and BlueShield<sup>®</sup> Plans (BCBS) that has relied on NASCO to successfully grow their national account business. Today, NASCO supports nearly eight million BCBS members nationwide for both local and national accounts, and Bud has been an integral part of that growth. He later served as Vice President of Operations where he strengthened NASCO's infrastructure and processes to better serve BCBS Plan customers and their accounts.

By 2001, Bud had come full circle, once again serving as Vice President of Marketing and Customer Relations. Here he strengthened NASCO's ability to perform as a technology partner to BCBS Plans by supporting new growth-enabling products such as *HCBO*<sup>®</sup> (Health Care Benefits Online, a Web-based employee portal), *FlexLink*<sup>®</sup> (the jointly-administered labor account solution), *Consumer's Choice*<sup>SM</sup> (a consumer-directed healthcare product), and its Web-based account reporting tool.

Most recently, Bud successfully took direct responsibility for the WellPoint Plan relationship, and focused all of his customer relations and technology experience to help deepen NASCO's affiliation with one of its largest customers and owner Plan. Over the years, Bud has contributed to NASCO in many ways and laid claim to many landmark achievements. He is a real pioneer, an authentic leader, and is going to be missed by NASCO associates and customers alike.

Moving forward, Alan Bunn will assume responsibility for the WellPoint Plan account. Ken Boyd, the Senior Account Executive on-site in Indianapolis, and his team will report to Alan and provide the continuity necessary to assure excellent service to WellPoint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Fadojo".