

June 28, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

For 11 ½ years I have worked along side and partnered with Tracy Bender as an Assistant Manager for 1½ years and a Manager for 10 years in her District at Harry and David. During that time I was fortunate enough to be encouraged, supported and lead by what I believe to be one of the most positive motivated, high energy individuals I have ever worked with and alongside. Tracy demonstrates a passion for her work and the teams of managers and employees she was entrusted with through vision, enthusiasm, drive, determination, creative and innovative ideas. She has the ability to motivate others by sharing her goals and the goals of your store in a professional and articulate and simple manner. She continually inspires you to do your best. Tracy taught us resilience and patience through difficult and trying holiday seasons, always cheering us on and believing in us. Tracy can be firm when needed by either directing us back on the right path or being the voice of her managers with the company on issues. As Tracy leads, she keeps a practical and balanced grip on reality, keeping us focused through her often discerning and gracious yet unbending direction; fully respecting the company she represents, her position and her responsibilities with a balance between being positive and being aware of the negative. Tracy taught by example to be diligent yet unselfish, living by example. She followed up on all projects she assigned or was entrusted with and made sure that we finished what was started. There were no loose ends. Tracy continually encouraged me to think outside the box and reach for the higher goal. Tracy will be a positive asset to any company she is placed with.

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