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AmeriSource Receives Award For Commitment to Diversity in Health Care Industry

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VALLEY FORGE, Pa., Oct. 26 /PRNewswire/ -- AmeriSource Health Corporation (NYSE: AAS) today received an award for its commitment to diversity in the healthcare field from 4th & Short Distribution Inc., of Southfield, MI and New York City, a minority-owned wholesale pharmaceutical, medical supplies and equipment distributor, in conjunction with the Michigan Minority Business Development Council.

The award was presented to R. David Yost, AmeriSource president and CEO, Patricia Earl, an AmeriSource VP/General Manager, and Joseph J. Montoto, RPh, VP Branded Rx Supply Management, AmeriSource, by 4th & Short Distribution, Inc. co-founders, Ronald Jones, Sr., chairman and CEO, and Vincent Carter, president and COO, at a ceremony held today at the company's Valley Forge, PA, headquarters.

AmeriSource was selected for the award for its response to a 1998 request by Detroit's HealthCare Collaborative that asked the Collaborative's healthcare providers to increase purchases with minority-owned businesses. In 1999, AmeriSource entered into a partnership with 4th & Short Distribution to supply pharmaceuticals and other healthcare products to Detroit-area hospitals.

"AmeriSource had the vision to see the value in partnering with a small minority-owned company such as ours," said Jones. "Because of its dedication to local, customer-centered service, the company also had the autonomy to make decisions at the local level and move quickly, which helped the partnership flourish," noted Carter.

"We at the Michigan Minority Business Development Council congratulate AmeriSource for recognizing the capabilities of minority businesses and for assuring that their vendor base is reflective of their customer base," said Dr. E. Delbert Gray, president and CEO of the MMBDC. "We also extend sincere congratulations to 4th & Short Distribution Inc. for serving as a model to our MMBDC members. It is most gratifying when we see first-hand the win-win situations that supplier diversity programs create."

"We are delighted to receive this honor and we look forward to a long and successful partnership with 4th & Short Distribution," said Yost. "This partnership reflects our commitment to meeting the unique needs of our customers in all the communities that we serve."

About AmeriSource

AmeriSource Health Corporation, with more than \$11 billion in operating revenue, is a leading distributor of pharmaceutical and related healthcare services and the industry's largest provider of pharmaceuticals to the acute care/health systems market. Headquartered in Valley Forge, PA, the Company serves its base of about 15,000 customer accounts through a national network of 22 strategically located distribution facilities. For news and additional information about the company, visit its web site at www.amerisource.com.

About 4th & Short Distribution

4th & Short Distribution was founded in 1996 by Ronald Jones, Sr., and Vincent Carter. With revenues of \$3.5 million it is one of three minority-owned and operated pharmaceutical wholesalers in the nation. Based in Southfield, MI, and New York City, the company aims to close the health gap for minority communities in the U.S. Through partnerships with key manufacturers and significant national wholesalers, 4th & Short Distribution is able to provide its customers with access to quality products and services at competitive prices. Its sister company, UrbanHealthcare.com, is an emerging e-healthcare company. Together, the two companies serve the product, informational and educational needs of urban-based hospitals, medical practitioners, government agencies and the patients they serve. For more information about 4th and Short Distribution, call 888-42-SHORT (888-427-4768). SOURCE AmeriSource Health Corporation; 4th & Short Distribution Inc.;

Michigan Minority Business Development Council

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