1/8/16

Dear Azure,

I just wanted to write a note to you to thank you for your service and help all these years. God certainly has blessed your business, and we have enjoyed your products for almost 19 years.

My husband and I live in a small logging, and gold mining town in the north central mountains of Washington. It is a remote area. The nearest Walmart is an hour away, and we have only one grocery store. We have been a drop site in Republic since May 1997, and this January's delivery was our last, as we are retiring and turning the drop over to younger folks. Now we will be just a customer.

Back when we started Azure delivery to the Republic area, we barely met our minimum of $300 dollars with three families' orders. The next month we skipped, and then added a few more families, and our orders have never dropped below $1000 dollars. We had a vision for this to be a ministry to our community, and wanted to offer organic foods at a low price to those who could not travel far for these products. It has become so much more than we could have ever dreamed. We have serviced more than 100 families over the years, and we have seen people come and go, babies born, and these same children grow into adults, graduate, and get married. Our Azure customers have become dear friends and family.

Having Azure delivered to our home, has allowed us to spend a full day for Azure each month. Folks could come throughout the day to pick up their orders. There were many opportunities to hear and share good stories, sorrows, and joys. Liberal advice was shared on just about any subject you could think of; gardening, the weather, family, and natural medicine, to name only a few. I was able to pray with folks, and they prayed for me.

I have a large garden here, and sold extra lettuce, chard and other vegetables. Some of my customers would bring their garden surplus to sell or trade with Azure friends for eggs, or fruit they had grown. It has been a meeting place for folks who knew each other to visit and get caught up on what had been happening in their lives. Each month my home has been busy and buzzing with laughter and visiting as people lingered to share with one another.

This last delivery was bitter-sweet, as I got lots of hugs and thank-yous. As I stood outside my garage looking at my parking area, there were folks hugging and visiting like they always have, along with the hurry/scurry of loading their Azure boxes. I certainly will miss all of this.

You see Azure has been more than just a delivery of organic products, it has been a meeting of community, in love and sharing and reaching out to each other. Something we all need.

I would encourage any Azure customer to consider having a drop at their home if it is convenient. It doesn't take much to unload and sort retail orders, and visiting with folks in your area is so rewarding.

Sincerely,
Suzie Sage