

June 13, 2013

Business Record
2013 Woman of Influence Award

To the Selection Committee:

It's my privilege to write in support of the nomination of Julie Fidler Dixon as a 2013 Woman of Influence. Julie and I became acquainted through our memberships in the Consortium women's group. I am writing this recommendation on the behalf of the group, and also with great personal enthusiasm.

Julie has a passionate commitment to helping brain-injured individuals live the best lives they can. She advances that cause through her role as CEO of On With Life, a nonprofit organization specializing in brain injury rehabilitation. Those who work with Julie express huge admiration for her strong focus on mission and her inspiring servant-leadership style. She has established a strong, clear, vision for organization, with emphasis on providing a continuum of services. This approach ensures that clients receive services early in the rehabilitation process, and that—after their inpatient stays—clients continue to receive community services and outpatient therapy.

Julie is deeply involved in influencing policies and standards related to brain-injury rehabilitation. She currently holds positions on the Iowa Legislative Mental Health Re-Design Task Force on Brain Injury and the University of Iowa Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation Advisory Board. She serves as a member of the governmental affairs committee of the Iowa Association of Community Providers. In addition to her many professional certifications, Julie is a surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, traveling internationally to survey health care facilities.

Julie has been an active member of the Consortium. She served as its president and has been a mentor to many members, particularly those working in the field of health. She not only has shared her health care knowledge, she helps guide them through a fast-changing field of vocational options. She is always upbeat, generous with her kind words and compliments. While her work as a CARF surveyor takes her around the world, she can put someone who hasn't traveled more than 50 miles from home at ease with her stories of growing up along the Mississippi in Burlington, Iowa.

Nearly 10 years ago, my daughter's high school classmate, Matt Hudson, suffered a severe brain hemorrhage at a football practice. I can still recall the outreach of On With Life to Matt's friends. It meant so much to the kids. Julie's commitment to those with life-changing brain injuries makes an enormous difference to the approximately 250 people served each year, as well as to their families and circles. She has also made a lasting impact on our community, by raising the standards for health care and by setting a personal example of innovation, excellence, and compassion.

Sincerely,



Gayle Goodson Butler