

June 7, 2013

Mr. Jay Byers, CEO  
Greater Des Moines Partnership  
700 Locust Street, Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Regarding: Letter of Support, Nomination of Patty Cownie for Women of Influence

Dear Jay,

On behalf of United Way of Central Iowa, I am honored to write in support of Patty Cownie for the 2013 Women of Influence Award. Patty's decades of community involvement and philanthropy make her worthy of this high honor.

Patty and Jim Cownie have been members of *United Way Tocqueville Society* since 1992, among the earliest and longest-standing members of our most prestigious recognition society. They were presented the 2006 *Tocqueville Society Award*, bestowed annually to an individual or family for sustained commitment to United Way and our community for service, advocacy and philanthropy. She has been a lead member of the *United Way Women's Leadership Connection* since 2004.

In her first year as a member of *Tocqueville Society*, Patty personally conducted tours of United Way-supported human service agencies, advocating for support to local corporate donors and individuals.

Patty has helped build and sustain our community's most treasured civic and human service organizations, including Junior League, Polk County Health Services, Orchard Place, Mercy Hospital, the Des Moines Arts Festival, the Des Moines Civic Center and Drake University.

There is strong precedence for honoring Patty Cownie with the Women of Influence Award: in recent years she has also earned the Iowa Star Award, the Bravo Award, the Drake Golden Bulldog Award, and was Iowan for the Day at the Iowa State Fair.

Patty Cownie has dedicated her life to making central Iowa a great place to live, work and prosper. She certainly has earned the distinction, Woman of Influence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Sellers".

Mary B. Sellers  
President