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Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Patty Cownie as a 2013 Woman of Influence. Patty currently sits on the Drake University Board of Trustees and the Community Foundation Leadership Circle and is a member of the Community Foundation's LifeTown Legacy Society. This is only the tip of the iceberg regarding Patty's community impact.

Patty is a life-long resident of Des Moines. She started her volunteer service shortly after marrying Jim Cownie in 1967. After a couple of years as a social worker with Polk County, Patty began her volunteer work frequently around children. She's served on the Bishop Drumm Board of Directors, the Polk County Health Services, Orchard Place Foundation, St. Augustin Foundation. Another interest has been the arts where she has served on the Des Moines Opera Board, Civic Music Board, Des Moines Arts Festival Board and the Des Moines Civic Center Board (now known as the Des Moines Performing Arts). Patty frequently opens her home for fundraising events most recently when over 80 women attended a fundraiser for the I Have a Dream Foundation.

Patty's charitable spirit has been an example to her children and, with Patty's encouragement, each of her children is finding their own areas of interest. Patty encourages them to take leadership roles to make a difference in this community where they are raising their children. One example is the family joined together to serve dinner at Central Iowa Shelter and Service.

Patty's name hasn't always been out front, yet she is an influential part of a team. Patty and Jim Cownie were the 2009 Iowans for the Day at the Iowa State Fair. Patty and Jim have supported the Iowa State Fair with the improvements to the Patty and Jim Cownie Cultural Center. In 2010 Patty and Jim received the Golden Bulldog Award, and this year they were recognized as the 2013 Bravo Award Winners. Patty will be honored when the Meals from the Heartland facility under construction will be named the Patty Cownie Center in recognition for her civic support to many community organizations.

As you can see, it's the diversity and breadth of Patty's community involvement and her commitment to the growth and success of Greater Des Moines as a great place to live and raise a family that make Patty a role model for others.

Thank you for your consideration of Patty Cownie as a Woman of Influence. Patty is a wonderful example of a woman who cares deeply for her community and acts to make a difference in the quality of life for its citizens.

Sincerely,

Kristi Knous
President and COO



Confirmed in Compliance with
National Standards
for U.S. Community Foundations