

June 12, 2013

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee:

I am delighted to recommend Jodie Warth for the 2013 Women of Influence awards for her achievements as a non-profit leader, community role model, and strong advocate for others.

I have had the immense privilege of knowing and working for Jodie for more than five years, and since the moment I met her, I have been in awe of the passion and energy she exudes on a daily basis. Her enthusiasm for her work and her devotion to making a difference in the lives of others is infectious. She has been a life-changing mentor for me and a tremendous role model for countless others through her inspiring nature, high moral standards, strong work ethic, and giving spirit.

As the chief professional officer for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa (BGCCI) – a role she was destined for – Jodie is currently the voice for more than 2,000 central Iowa youth. In her three years as the fiery and passionate leader of BGCCI, Jodie has quickly become the heart and soul of the organization. With Jodie's strong vision and leadership, BGCCI is thriving as a financially-sound and highly-impactful youth development organization.

Jodie's integrity and passion know no bounds, and she tackles each day with the Boys & Girls Club members first in mind, constantly asking the questions, "Is it good for the kids? Is it mission-focused?" Jodie will never accept that which is unacceptable, as she fully believes that our kids deserve better. Her reasoning? Kids only grow up once.

But Jodie is not just committed to the children and teens that walk through our doors. She is unconditionally devoted to solving the needs of all the young people in our community who need help. Through a strategic vision to grow the Boys & Girls Club Movement in greater Des Moines, Jodie has boldly led BGCCI toward a future where every child who needs us will have access to a Club and with it, a safe place to learn and grow, positive relationships with caring adults, and access to the tools and resources they need to achieve success.

Jodie also believes whole-heartedly in "wrapping our arms" around the entire families of the Club members we serve. Her concept of the "hug" demands that everyone at BGCCI look deep into the needs of our families, and that we meet those needs at every turn, whether it's food, clothing, or personal care items. Her devotion to feeding our kids and their families has seen groundbreaking success, and she will continue to fight until no child in our community goes hungry.

The secret to Jodie's success and positive influence on others is in the way she so purely models the way. She believes in everything she does down to her soul, and therefore, it comes without effort. I have seen her bring people to tears when speaking from her toes about the urgency of solving the needs of "her" kids. I have also seen her lay on the floor of the Boys & Girls Club to console a crying child with no concern for roles or appearances.

She's the CPO who would not only do anything for any donor or board member, but for any staff member or Club kid as well.

- She's the person who will open her door to any of her employees and offer her shoulder to cry on.
- She's the person who will be at the funeral of a lost young soul who takes their own life, whether she knew the child or not.
- She's the person who will be there for a board member during times of crisis.
- And she's the same person who will be there to watch our Club members walk across the stage to receive their high school diploma.

Jodie has worked for the betterment of others as a police officer, juvenile court officer, director of a domestic violence shelter, fundraiser, and child advocate. But Jodie's life of leadership and service extends not just through her career path, but also through her daily efforts to be an agent of change and make the world a better place. In her personal life, she is forever generous in her gifts of time and treasure and continually finds ways to help those in need.

Her commitment to helping children shines through in her volunteerism, from participating in One Body – a group of people that care for special needs children while their parents attend church service and other activities – to volunteering for the local Children's Tumor Foundation NF (Neurofibromatosis) walk. She also mentors a young boy named Cooper who has special needs, often giving her time to be his companion and take him to vacation bible school.

Jodie's impact on the lives of others is immeasurable. Through her inspiration, dedication, and selflessness, Jodie is the definition of a woman of influence. Thank you for your consideration of Jodie Warth for the 2013 Women of Influence awards.

Respectfully,



Cailin Stockdale
Director of Communication & Resource Development
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa