

June 13, 2013

Des Moines Business Record
% Women of Influence Nomination
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309



To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely pleased to support the nomination of Margaret Borgen as a nominee for the Des Moines Business Record's 2013 Woman of Influence.

I first came to know Margaret more than 20 years ago when she and I served on the Diversity Committee at Roosevelt High School. Since that time, I have served with her on numerous projects, boards and committees. I have seen her skill and leadership in action. She has a proven record of success in administration and fundraising. She is sensitive to people, listening carefully and responding to their interests and needs. She is enthusiastic and communicates that enthusiasm to others. She has amazing energy and dedication to the task at hand. She is also very good at mobilizing the efforts of other persons. She has an impressive combination of personal authority and drive and the ability to involve others in support of the goal.

I have observed Margaret moving easily with persons representing a wide variety of educational, ethnic, economic and religious backgrounds. I have observed a woman who is able to express strong personal conviction while remaining open to the insights of others. It is Margaret's trademark to be respectful and inclusive of all. I've seen her time after time reach out to newcomers, valuing their ideas and involvement. In many ways, she exemplifies what some have called the "shared wisdom" model of decision-making, recognizing that each person has a piece of the wisdom but no person has all of the pieces. Few can be both kind and strong. Margaret can.

It is impossible to capture the "essence" of Margaret in a few short paragraphs. Her interests are broad, her commitments deep and her contributions significant. She has expansive local, state and national experiences in the arenas of education, human services, health, business, government and religion. Through her staff and volunteer efforts, in both leadership and support roles, Margaret has made a substantial impact on every organization and every cause with which she has been associated.

Margaret is always among the first to recognize needs and pursue solutions. As a result, she has been instrumental in founding and fostering many programs and projects. There are many examples of this in her service. To note just a few:

- A significant start-up would be the establishment of the FINE Education Research Foundation. Margaret was not only the Foundation's first chairperson, she essentially served as unpaid executive director for a number of years until the point that the structure was in place, the start-up money had been raised and professional staff could be hired.

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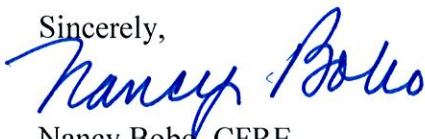
- Another significant contribution is Margaret's current leadership as President of the Des Moines Public Schools Foundation. Margaret has spearheaded strategic activities of the Foundation, including organizing its first community Charter Campaign to raise funds in support of the Foundation's focus of supporting innovative teaching projects in Des Moines Public Schools in the areas of art, music and science. Margaret has been relentless in her efforts to assure that the groundwork is correctly laid, the approach is thoughtful and appropriate and that success will be achieved in this effort. While the campaign is in its early stages, it's safe to say that through Margaret's vision, creativity, drive and leadership, solid footing for the future of the Foundation has been laid. Already 20 projects have been funded, impacting more than 3,000 students.
- A recent successful activity Margaret spearheaded was the statewide pancake breakfast in support of the *Imagine No Malaria* project. The steering committee was challenged to come up with a kick-off activity that could be implemented statewide. As a result of Margaret's suggestion, 91 breakfasts were held across the state this spring, raising thousands of dollars for the project that will go a long way in meeting the \$2 million fundraising goal here in Iowa as well as raising awareness of the malaria eradication project.
- A long ago start-up involved Margaret establishing a family planning clinic in Racine, WI where she lived at the time, She and several others saw the need, secured donated space from a local hospital and started a once-a-week clinic that was staffed completely by volunteers, including the doctors. Eventually, when the need was established, the clinic was taken over and run by the County Health Department.
- Margaret played a leadership role in setting up the Alternative High School in Webster City. She was hired as its first director and charged with organizing and launching the program. The School subsequently became an established part of the school district.
- A short-term service was a child care program Margaret organized to help families in Des Moines affected by the flood of 1993. Margaret secured space in a school and recruited qualified volunteers to care for children of families who had sustained major damage to their homes. Hours were set up in the late afternoon and evening two nights a week for the rest of the summer enabling people to work on their houses while their children were cared for in a safe and nurturing place.

In all of these roles and many others, Margaret has exhibited a high degree of effectiveness, mobilizing the efforts of others in support of the projects, strategizing their progress and moving them from concept to reality. She has often worked with no models to guide her but her own creativity, determination and resourcefulness.

Margaret has given her 'all' to our community for many, many years. I can think of no one more deserving of the Woman of Influence Award, an award whose very name so aptly describes my friend Margaret Borgen.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Nancy Bobo, CFRE

Vice President of Development & Marketing