



June 14, 2013

Business Record
Women of Influence
The Depot at 4th
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee:

I take pride in nominating a very deserving individual for the Business Record's 2013 Women of Influence Award: my friend and co-worker, Julie Stewart.

I have known and worked with Julie for many years. Julie joined the Prairie Meadows team in 1989. Together, we have seen the company grow from a racetrack to a highly successful entertainment venue. Through all of our transitions over the past 24 years, Julie, along with the other team members, has played an integral role in making Prairie Meadows a success.

And while many people know Prairie Meadows as a 24-hour entertainment destination, it is our charitable giving and community partnerships that distinguish us from other gaming entities. And for this, we have Julie Stewart to thank.

Julie has worked tirelessly to build our Community Betterment and Legacy Grant programs. In 2001, Julie created and implemented the Prairie Meadows Scholarship Program which awards scholarships to all participating Polk County high schools.

Julie also implements and manages Prairie Meadows' partnerships and sponsorships each year, including the Prairie Meadows 200 at the Iowa Speedway, Prairie Meadows Volunteer Program at The Principal Charity Classic, Prairie Meadows Community Outreach Program at the Des Moines Arts Festival, the Greater Des Moines Partnership "DC One" Trip presented by Prairie Meadows, and the Prairie Meadows Temple Theatre Series.

Julie has always taken great pride in managing our guest service and employee satisfaction programs. With Julie's leadership, Prairie Meadows successfully implemented our JACKPOT Service program in 2007. Julie continues to enhance the employee training programs and in 2011 she, along with Character Counts in Iowa, implemented a new Culture of Ethics and Excellence training program for our employees.

Over the past few years, Julie and I have worked side-by-side with the United Way of Central Iowa on numerous programs and campaigns. And as I have chaired the ALS Walk, the Governor's Luncheon for Scouting and been honored as one of the Father of the Year award recipients from the American Diabetes Association, Julie has been there for me to count on and is a trusted resource.

Above and beyond her role as Prairie Meadows' Director of Community Relations, Julie serves on the boards of Character Counts in Iowa, Blank Park Zoo, Better Business Bureau, Puppy Jake Foundation, and Variety Club of Iowa.

Personally, I know that Julie is an outstanding mother, wife, sister and daughter. And while she dedicates enormous amounts of time to Prairie Meadows and the dozens of organizations for which she volunteers, her family will always be her number one priority.

Julie truly is a woman of influence and a tremendous success in her community and her profession. She is certainly deserving of being recognized as a 2013 Business Record Women of Influence award recipient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Palmer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary Palmer
President/CEO