



**Principal Life
Insurance Company**

June 9, 2013

Gina Rooney, Grants Manager
Prairie Meadows
1 Prairie Meadows Dr
Altoona IA 50009

To whom it may concern

I am very pleased to recommend Julie Steward for recognition as a Business Record Woman of Influence. Julie's passion, contribution, positive impact and deep involvement make her the very definition of a Woman of Influence. For some twenty years I have worked with Julie on nearly every community project in which I've been involved.

Our community is so fortunate to have the resources of Prairie Meadows to support greater Des Moines' non-profit needs. Julie is a dedicated steward of Prairie Meadows' grants and sponsorship. The impact of this funding has been astounding. But it is not just in her role as community relations director that Julie contributes. Julie goes above and beyond as an active board member, volunteer, fundraiser, wise advisor and advocate for countless organizations. Currently, Julie and I are working together to help the Des Moines Arts Festival get on solid sponsorship ground, raising funds for the American Diabetes Association, and wrapping up a great Principal Charity Classic. These are just a few of the many organizations Julie is currently serving.

I consider Julie to be a tireless champion of the most fragile members of our community, a tireless worker for good causes and a great friend. As I write this letter, I feel foolish for not having nominated her much earlier.

Thanks for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary O'Keefe".

Mary O'Keefe
Sr. Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer
Principal Financial Group



COUNTY OF POLK Board of Supervisors

111 Court Ave, Suite 300
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2214
Ph. 515.286.3120
Fax. 515.323.5225

Tom Hockensmith, Chair
4th District
Ph. 515.286.3116
tom.hockensmith@polkcountyiowa.gov

Robert Brownell
1st District
Ph. 515.286.3115
robert.brownell@polkcountyiowa.gov

Angela Connolly
2nd District
Ph. 515.286.3117
angela.connolly@polkcountyiowa.gov

Steve Van Oort
3rd District
Ph 515.286.3119
steve.vanoort@polkcountyiowa.gov

John F. Mauro
5th District
Ph. 515.286.3118
john.mauro@polkcountyiowa.gov

June 5, 2013

Des Moines Business Record
100 – 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

RE: Women of Influence Award

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of recommendation regarding the nomination of Julie Stewart for consideration of the Business Record's Women of Influence Award. Julie has been a driving force in our community for many years. Through her leadership, Julie has helped to bring many projects forward that have benefitted our community including:

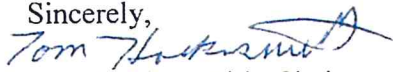
- renovation of Terrace Hill
- renovation of East, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Dowling High Schools
- construction of the athletic complex at East High School
- Prairie Meadows Art Gallery at the Rasmussen Center on Grand View's Des Moines Campus
- renovation of Drake Stadium
- renovation and additions to the Blank Park Zoo
- renovation of Flynn Mansion at Living History Farms

Julie has gone above and beyond for the roles that she has played in the successes of the USS Iowa project, Honor Flights dinners at Prairie Meadows, fundraising campaigns for the United Way, ALS and American Diabetes Association. She also gives her time and commitment to the boards that she serves on: Character Counts in Iowa, Better Business Bureau, Blank Park Zoo and Variety Club of Iowa.

Not only is Julie an effective administrator, she is also a devoted mother of three well-rounded children, a loving wife, sister and daughter. Her passion to make Prairie Meadows the best that it can be is undeniable.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to further discuss the merits of your consideration of Julie Stewart for this important influential award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Hockensmith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Hockensmith, Chair
Polk County Board of Supervisors
4th District