**Women of Influence**

I would like to nominate Dr. Susan Beck as a Woman of Influence. She is much deserving of this award for all of her accomplishments in her life. She is a skilled surgeon, faithful/dedicated wife and mother (and now grandmother!), and community advocate for women’s health.

She began her career as a general surgeon working long hours as well as at out of town/various clinics in the state of Iowa. She sacrificed her time and talents to mend people back together and care for them and their families. She has now tailored her career and focuses on women’s health; specifically breast health and disease. She has cared for many patients with cancer both in this state and other surrounding states. She gains her medical notoriety from word of mouth from patients and former patients; peers and her constant teaching within the Iowa community. She continues to further her education to achieve a Master’s degree in public health to return her knowledge to future students.

Dr. Beck has a fondness of community health. She volunteers at many events and free clinics in the Des Moines area. She participates on Mission Trips to India with her church and national group of health care providers to bring education and health care to the neediest areas in that country. She gives freely of herself to many meetings and groups to educate the community about wellness and recommended care for women. She has a deep seeded Christian faith that coincides with her medical abilities. She is faithful to her church and church family. She is thankful for each and every encounter that happens in her life. She practices to the fullest capacity when she cares for a patient/family. She takes the time to explain and answer many questions that are posed to her on a daily basis. She works tirelessly for various hospital projects to ensure our clinic, Katzmann Breast Center, is a center of quality and excellence both at Mercy Medical Center and within the community.

Dr. Beck is not only a personal friend but also my mentor. She has shown me the way within this medical community how best to care for patients as a provider. She has given me the gift of knowledge and expertise in an ever changing medical world. She continues to answer all of my questions/concerns, sometimes daily, and never makes me feel second best. Her patients always recognize Dr. Beck in the community and always have kind words to relay. She plays a pivotal role in patients’ lives that they remember forever. She calms their fears and is in the moment with them at the time of a concerning diagnosis as well as with routine visit in the clinic. She leads a multidisciplinary team to ensure a patient gets complete care. I am blessed to call her a colleague however she is also my friend.

Sincerely,

Tracey Jurgensmeier, ARNP

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Susan Beck for the nomination for Women of Influence. I have known Dr. Beck for ten years. I began my journey with her as a preceptor when I was a medical student. She was my role model and an amazing teacher. As a medical student I desired someday to become a surgeon and truly wanted to be just like her. She taught me to go after my dreams and to work hard to accomplish my goals. She has shown an enormous amount of strength and perseverance to get where she is today.

Throughout the years I finished my residency and fellowship and got the opportunity to become her partner. Dr. Beck truly goes above and beyond for her patients. She takes the time to spend with them and makes them feel comfortable. Having a cancer discussion is not an easy topic but each patient that meets with Dr. Beck leaves the clinic feeling stronger and determined to beat their disease. She has a lasting effect on everyone she meets.

Dr. Beck is not only a fabulous surgeon but a wonderful wife and mother. She also has become a new grandmother. She is pulled in many directions but manages to accomplish all her goals and be a success in every endeavor she undertakes. I am truly honored to be her partner and to call her my friend. I learn from her every day and still sit back in awe of her. There is not another person who I believe deserves the Women of Influence nomination more than Dr. Beck. She manages a thriving surgical practice and finds the time to be a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. To this day Dr. Beck is still my inspiration and I strive each and every day to someday be like her.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tiffany Torstenson