It is indeed an honor to write a letter recommending Jessica Dunker to to be the recipient of the prestigious Women of Influence Award.

I first met Jessica when  in during the summer of 1993. Jessica and I were both part of building Iowa Christian Academy, a a private school in West Des Moines.  I quickly learned that Jessica was not your ordinary person. I likened her to the Energizer Bunny. She was often the first one in the school and the last one to leave.  The woman was amazing, inspirational, and focused.

Jessica was also an incredible encourager and cheerleader, always giving her all.

Later, Jessica became Development Director.at ICA.  Her love for the students and staff and her fearlessness, captured the hearts of many contributors, Her passion for others was an example to many  people.

Jessica loves deeply.  One of the Founding Fathers of Ruth Harbor (a home for young women with unplanned pregnancies) Jessica's legacy, lives on.

She recently met a current resident of Ruth Harbor. Having heard of Jessica,  the young woman was visibly moved. It was quite a poignant moment for me I watched Jessica kneel down beside the young woman and encouraged her to pick up the baton and be ready to serve others.

The girl, with tears in her eyes, could only say "thank you" Jessica makes each person feel as though they are important to her (and yes, I do believe that she sees their value.).

James Elliot once said, where ever you are, be all there. My friend, Jessica is that kind of woman. She  volunteers  with her church; teaching both parents and students in an after school program .Jessica is She multi tasks as she takes a young young Bosnian girl to get a swimming suit  or taking her mother to the doctor. My mind continues to consider all the ways that Jessica has blessed me and others.

I believe you can tell a lot about a person by how their children turn out.  All three of Jessica's daughters have followed in their mothers footsteps and serve  others--In Greece, China, Ames and oh so many other places!

My mind is spinning as I remember times of time spent with Jessica as she has served at the retirement home, or leading students in service projects, or doing an impromptu dance, Jessica's light shines.  I truly hope that my words express her generosity of her time, talents and treasures. She is a true gem and is so deserving of the prestigious award for this year's Woman of influence award.

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