



May 27, 2015

To the Members of the Selection Committee:

Please consider this our letter of support for Ms. Brenda Mouw's nomination for the 2015 Business Record Women of Influence award.

Brenda has a deep commitment to children having access to quality health care, especially mental health care. Since 1996, Mouw has been an active member of the Orchard Place Board of Directors, attending and participating in monthly board and committee meetings; recruiting board members and donors for the organization; planning and executing Orchard Place fundraisers; and using her knowledge of health care and our community to promote both short and long term strategies in identifying needed resources. Brenda is not afraid to ask hard questions and challenge the status quo, and she holds the bar high for all members of our organization. In the non-profit world, we have to be able to demonstrate we have a positive impact on those we serve. We must have integrity in our business practices and build sustainable systems of care for children. Brenda has made valuable contributions in all these areas.

In the early 2000's, when Orchard Place was in need of an annual fundraising event, Brenda used her extensive contacts and energy to help us launch a new event - the Orchard Place Spelling Bee. Little did Brenda know that this crazy, out of the ordinary Spelling Bee would become an annual event, successfully raising more than \$800,000 over 12 years. She also was integrally involved in the Bee's predecessor event, "For the Birds," which ran for ten years in the 1990's and was a hugely successful fundraiser for Orchard Place.

Our Orchard Place Board of Directors is responsible for oversight, strategy and support of a complex organization. We will serve an estimated 10,000 children and their families this year in a wide array of mental health services ranging from prevention-based services up to a 103-bed intensive psychiatric residential treatment program. We have more than 400 employees located in over 90 schools, clinics, and public agencies in Central Iowa. We need board members who bring their heads and their hearts to each and every meeting, and Brenda has done just that for the past 20 years.

Thank you for allowing us to support Brenda's nomination. She is certainly deserving of this honor.

Sincerely,

Anne Starr, CEO

Val Saltsgaver, CFO

**Orchard Place
Administrative Office**
2116 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
Phone: (515) 246-3514
Fax: (515) 246-3599

Orchard Place Campus
925 SW Porter Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50315
Phone: (515) 285-6781
Fax: (515) 287-9695

Child Guidance Center
808 Fifth Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Phone: (515) 244-2267
Fax: (515) 244-1922

PACE Juvenile Center
620 Eighth Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Phone: (515) 697-5700
Fax: (515) 697-5701

Orchard Place Foundation
925 SW Porter, PO Box 35425
Des Moines, Iowa 50315
Phone: (515) 285-6781
Fax: (515) 287-9695