Katie Roth

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To: Women of Influence

Re: Barbara Hirsch-Giller

Someone once said that social work is the art of listening and the science of hope. That is why I hope you will consider Barbara Hirsch-Giller as one of your 2017 Women of Influence.

I have known Barbara for over twenty years. Social workers advocate, enable and support people to make positive changes in their lives. This has been Barbara’s mission. She is one of the most caring people I know and given today’s geopolitical climate, social work is now more important than ever. Her main area of expertise is helping victims of violence and sexual crimes – this is hard work.

Some of her accomplishments include:

* *Phi Alpha* Honor Society, *Delta Nu* Chapter—for excellence in social work scholarship and professional standards, University of Iowa School of Social Work—March 2001.
* The Roger Betsworth Annual Award in Religion, Simpson College—April 1998.
* Humanities Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities, Simpson College—April 1998.

In addition, Barb gives back to the community. Her resume lists all her volunteer and community activities but here are just a few examples of her dedication:

* Interfaith Alliance Board of Directors, beginning January 2015
* President of Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines 2011-2014 and Board Member
* Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center Board of Directors, 2008-2012
* Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa Board of Directors, 2006-2010
* Jewish Family Services Chairperson, Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, 2004-2009
* Polk County Leadership Development Academy, Diversity Initiative Team, 2003

On a personal note, Barb lives what she does every day. When my husband died 15 years ago, Barb was there to help get me through the tremendous grief and struggle I was experiencing. You are lucky indeed if you can call Barb your friend.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

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