



May 23, 2017

Women of Influence Selection Committee  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Women of Influence Selection Committee:

I am thrilled to have been asked to write this letter of recommendation in support of the nomination of Suzanne Mineck as a 2017 Woman of Influence. I have known Suzanne since her selection as President of the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation. As a member of that Board, I have had the opportunity to observe Suzanne up close and personal and have been taken by her intellect, vision and ingenuity. Her leadership of the foundation has taken us to new heights and positioned us for sustained impact and effectiveness for years to come.

Suzanne's influence can be seen in the many ways she invests in our community. From the foundation's newest initiative, Health Connect, to our singular role in creating the platform for our community's focus on trauma and adverse childhood experiences, Suzanne's sheer will and influence is a force to reckon with. Small but mighty, Suzanne is dogged when it comes to opportunities to push the envelope, move the needle or change the paradigm. Her knack for sorting through even the most complex subjects and creating a shared understanding of the matter and an opportunity for individuals to engage in solutions sets her apart. As a convener, facilitator and initiator, Suzanne is masterful in creating an agenda for change that folks can rally around. As an advocate for children's healthy development her voice can be heard far and wide as she uses her position and platform to not only make the difference but to be the difference.

I am proud to have the opportunity to work side by side with Suzanne on some of our community's most challenging issues including youth engagement and violence prevention, grade level reading and trauma informed care. Suzanne's leadership on these issues and so many others is not only important; it has created movements that will have a lasting impact on our community and all of its youth.

For these and so many other reasons Suzanne Mineck is a "woman of influence." Her body of work combined with her incredible commitment to issues and people, especially the healthy development of the vulnerable and at risk, set her apart and make her worthy of the formal designation and recognition as a 2017 Woman in Influence.

Sincerely –

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terece Caldwell-Johnson".

Terece Caldwell-Johnson. CEO  
Oakridge Neighborhood and Oakridge Neighborhood Services