A letter for the Women of Influence 2019 selection committee,

I am writing today about Kim Whalen, whom I have had the pleasure of working for over the last six years. Kim is not only my boss, but has become my mentor, my cheerleader, my role model – and my biggest critic. Kim has taught me my worth, and that even when I think I have done my best – she pushes me to be better. She has opened the door to experiences that helped me grow professionally, and has been there for me personally when I needed it most.

Kim has taught me that I can draw my own career path – and that one size does not fit all. At Heart of America Kim has held roles varying from accountant, CFO, head of the design team and Executive Vice President – she proves that left and right brain thinking don’t have to be exclusive. She is strategic and creative – and it shows in her success, as well as in those she teaches and mentors.

I have been lucky to work with Kim on fundraising for Wildwood Hills Ranch – and it impresses me the level of both monetary and physical involvement she has with this organization. She has taken her success and passed on the benefits to others without ever expecting anything in return.

I am proud to not only know Kim Whalen, but to work with her and be inspired by her on a daily basis. Her work ethic is unsurpassed – and she has a heart of gold.

Sincerely,

Michelle Sparkman

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