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May 21, 2019

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National Standards  
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Mr. Jason Swanson  
Business Publications  
100 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Mr. Swanson,

It is my privilege to provide this letter of support for Rev. Sarai Rice on her nomination for recognition as a 2019 Woman of Influence. Through Sarai's role as Executive Director of the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) she has made a tremendous impact in our community not only through the work of bridging divides between various religious communities but also because of her innovative and thoughtful approach to supporting individuals and families in need.

Sarai has made a difference in the lives of countless individuals who may never even realize the significant impact on their health she has influenced. Through her visionary leadership, DMARC piloted a new food pantry model that leverages new technology while also incentivizing healthy food choices. This Food Pantry 2.0 provides families points to use for selecting food as opposed to handing out pre-determined boxes. Points are used to select foods appropriate for families and, the healthier the option, the lower amount of points needed. This innovative solution was a direct result of Sarai understanding that clients within the DMARC food system had 3 *times* the incidents of diabetes than the general population. Sarai's vision, commitment and unwavering focus on ensuring healthy options for low-income families has led DMARC to be recognized for this work while also having a tremendous impact on families served.

This year, Sarai will be officially retiring from her professional career yet I am certain that her influence and involvement in the community will remain. She is genuinely focused on engagement, innovation, collaboration and collectively working together to bring about the kind of change necessary to advance our community. She is a role model for nonprofit leaders, faith leaders, women and all who want to make a difference in Greater Des Moines. We are fortunate that she has dedicated her time, talent and vision to advancing the common good on so many levels.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Rev. Sarai Rice for the Woman of Influence recognition. She is a leader in our community whose influence is making a real and lasting difference in the lives of many. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any additional information I can provide as you consider Sarai's nomination.

Sincerely,

  
Angela N. Dethlefs-Trettin  
Chief Community Impact Officer