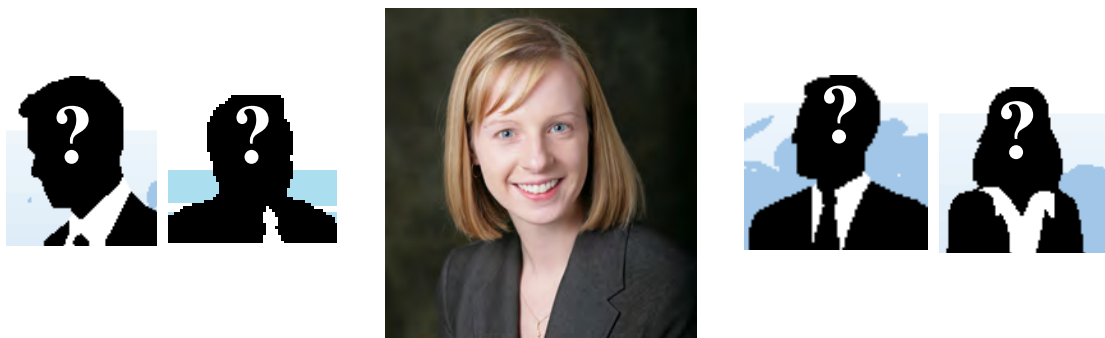


Business Record
FORTY
UNDER **40**

2016



Jennifer L. Smith, CPA



January 12, 2016

Forty Under 40 Selection Committee
The Depot at Fourth
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Nomination for Jennifer L. Smith

Dear Selection Committee:

I am honored to be nominated for the annual *Business Record's* Forty Under 40. I have provided a summary of my impact on the community and how I have grown into a leader in my profession. In addition, I highlighted a few of the organizations I'm involved in and the impact I've had on them.

I continually strive to be my best in all aspects of life and believe being a well-rounded individual is highly important. Too often, I feel that society has limited us to one category at a time, whether it be "the professional", "the volunteer", "the mom", and so on. These labels don't fit me well since I am frequently wearing all of these hats at the same time. It's not about creating a work/life balance as most of us never fill one category at a time, rather, integrating all aspects of our lives together. There are many skills which make this integration easier such as flexibility, teamwork, and communication. However, I think the most important thing to remember is that you don't have to be THE best in everything that you do but be YOUR best in everything you do. I believe that you will have your greatest impact when you are giving your best in the areas you are passionate about.

I have a great circle of influence who continue to mentor and encourage me and I am passionate about mentoring others around me to be their best. I have included recommendations letters from some members of my circle of influence and am humbled by the kind words written by those which I admire the most.

Thank you for considering me and I hope to be included in the 2016 Forty Under 40 group. It would be an honor to join the prestigious group Forty Under 40 alumni.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer L. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jennifer L. Smith

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FORTY UNDER 40 NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee:	Jennifer L. Smith
Current Position:	Assurance Manager
Company/Organization:	McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith, P.C. <i>Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors</i>
Company Phone Number:	515-288-3279
Company Address:	1601 West Lakes Parkway, Suite 300
City, State, Zip:	West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Email Address:	jlsmith@mhcs CPA.com
Birthdate:	August, 20, 1982 (33)
College Attended and Degree:	Bachelors of Science in Accounting, Minor in Spanish Iowa State University
Business accomplishments (job responsibilities, special projects, related affiliations, etc)	<p>I currently am a manager with McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith, P.C. specializing in assurance and business consulting services to clients in a wide variety of industries including manufacturing, distributing and non-profit. At MHC&S, we make it our business to know your business. We prefer to think that our firm offers much more than accountants; we offer our clients business partners – partners dedicated to the success of their business. MHC&S has earned numerous awards including the distinction of being selected as the only Iowa firm named in the 2015 Best Accounting Firms to Work For Event in the U.S.</p> <p>I currently manage, along with two partners and four managers, the assurance department at the firm. The department, consisting of 14 employees, provides audit and review services to a diverse client base. My greatest business accomplishment is continuing to grow in my career and serve my clients well while balancing a busy personal and family life as a mother of four young children. I have earned the respect and confidence of my clients, peers and mentors by providing value-added services that exceed expectations and becoming a leader within the firm. I also strive to provide a working example of having a successful career, being involved in the community and balancing an active family life to other young professionals.</p>
Civic and Philanthropic Leadership:	<p>Lead Like a Lady – Current Member January 2015 – Present</p> <p>Hawthorn Hill – Board Member April 2014 – Present</p>

Bidwell Riverside – Board Member August 2015 – Present

West Des Moines Leadership Academy – Member Class of 2015 - 2016

Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants – Member 2005 – Present

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants – Member 2005- Present

Association of Business and Industry – Member 2009 – Present

Lutheran Church of Hope – Member/Sunday School and Bible School Volunteer – 2010 - Present

Children's Garden Learning Center – Board Member 2009 – 2013

Race for the Cure – Fundraiser/walk participant 2005 - 2013

Lungevity – Fundraiser/walk participant 2013 – 2015

LifeServe Blood Center – Frequent blood donor

City of Norwalk Streetscape Committee – 2013

Volunteer/Participant in various non-profit fundraisers such as Every Family Rocks for Children and Families of Iowa and YMCA Supportive Housing Homecoming

Achievements, Awards, and Special Recognition:

Passed Certified Public Accountant Exam - 2006

Letters of Recommendation:

Jaimie Miller, President and Co-Founder – Lead Like a Lady

Robert R. McGowen, Managing Partner – McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith, P.C.

Tim Shanahan, Executive Director – Hawthorn Hill and Interim Executive Director – Bidwell Riverside

Wayne Hansen, President – Control Installations of Iowa

Nominated by:

Lead Like a Lady
6919 Vista Drive
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Jennifer Leeann Smith, CPA

joeyandjenny@msn.com

301 Pine Avenue

Norwalk, Iowa 50211

(515) 981-4846

EDUCATION:

Completed Uniform CPA Exam September 2006 Certificate #11882

Iowa State University

Bachelor of Science, May 2005

GPA: 3.53/4.00

Ames, Iowa

Major: Accounting

Minor: Spanish

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

McGowen, Hurst, Clark, & Smith, P.C. Des Moines, Iowa

Audit Manager

November 2009 – Present

- Completed audit procedures to provide assurance to client financial statements
- Prepared GAAP financial statements and footnotes
- Supervised a team to complete engagements of all levels
- Advised clients on various business consulting matters
- Trained to work in Quickbooks to provide accounting services to clients
- Exposed to manufacturing, construction, and nonprofit industries

Marsh USA

Senior Staff Accountant

Urbandale, Iowa

June 2009 – November 2009

- Oversaw the financial statements and general ledger for 5 Marsh office locations
- Ensured that month end is closed accurately
- Processed journal entries, income accruals, recognitions, and deferrals, expense account corrections
- Reviewed detailed reconciliation of all balance sheet accounts
- Trained and supervised colleagues from outsourced company
- Ensured compliance with GAAP and SOX

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Audit Senior Associate

Des Moines, Iowa

September 2005 – March 2009

- Performed tests to ensure client's financial statements comply with GAAP
- Prepared complete financial statements and footnotes
- Responsible for completion of fieldwork portion of audit and work of assistants
- Worked with colleagues to complete efficient and accurate audits and reviews
- Communicated with clients to gather relevant information
- Exposed to manufacturing, financial institution, real estate, and construction industries

SKILLS:

Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. Worked with IDEA and ACL software, Fixed Assets CS depreciation software, Prosystem audit and tax software, Quickbooks general ledger software, and Oracle general ledger software. Strong math, English, and customer service skills. Strong ability to work in groups.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Member of Hawthorn Hill Board of Directors 2014 – Present

Member of the Bidwell Riverside Board of Directors 2015 - Present

Member of Children's Garden Board of Directors 2008 – 2013, various positions held

Various other volunteer activities for YMCA Supportive Housing, United Way, Every Family Rocks, and Meals from the Heartland



Lead Like a Lady – Member

Lead Like a Lady is a membership organization of more than 40 professional women. The organization's mission is to connect women through support and development to become a community of empowered and engaged leaders.

My membership in Lead Like a Lady has been the most inspiring group that I've ever been part of. The members truly have a passion for their profession, their community, and their personal lives and strive to thrive in all areas of life. The bi-monthly events offer encouragement, mentoring, education, and friendship that is valuable beyond measure.

I have been elected to the Membership Committee for 2016. I am excited to deepen my involvement in the organization and also hope to continue to build a membership of diverse, strong women who are leaders in our community.

www.leadlikealady.org



Hawthorn Hill – Board Member

Hawthorn Hill is a non-profit organization with a mission to operate housing programs for homeless families with children to obtain permanent housing, and to provide services to help families achieve economic self-sufficiency. Hawthorn Hill operates New Directions Shelter, an emergency shelter for mothers and their children, and The Home Connection, permanent supportive housing for homeless families with children. One of the defining differences of Hawthorn Hill are the services provided to the families to help them attain financial independence, whether they are staying in one of the programs for days or years.

I was drawn to Hawthorn Hill by the difference they are making in people's lives while providing a basic need to the people they serve. There are numerous success stories that touch the heart, especially being the mother of four children myself. There are approximately 21,000 homeless in Iowa and 61% of them homeless are women and children. Due to lack of space, Hawthorn Hill turns away 3 out of 4 mothers. Homelessness is all around us even if we don't notice it and the need for the services Hawthorn Hill provides is apparent.

I serve on the finance committee and am also involved in the committee that plans Art for Shelter, an annual fundraising event. Everyone on the board has a passion for reducing the number of homeless in the community and increasing the number of families we are able to serve. It is an honor to serve on the board with so many passionate individuals.

www.hawthorn-hill.org



Bidwell Riverside – Board Member

Bidwell Riverside has been serving low-income individuals since 1893 and seeks to build hope through three major focus areas: children, families, and community. The Bidwell Riverside distribution center is the only choice pantry in Polk County, allowing clients to choose their food items and providing dignity and hope for those that struggle with hunger. The distribution center is the largest distributor of food from the DMARC Food Pantry in Polk County serving over 4,000 individuals each month. Bidwell Riverside also has a child development center which provides high quality care and preschool for children of low-income families. The center is rated a level 5 on the Department of Human Services Quality Rating System, the highest level which can be obtained.

When I joined the board of Bidwell Riverside, the executive director position was vacant and the board was working to fill several open positions within the organization. Through working with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, the board has contracted with Hawthorn Hill to provide management services for Bidwell Riverside. This created a joint connection for me since I am on both the Hawthorn Hill and Bidwell Riverside boards. The boards of both organizations are working together to determine if there are efficiencies that can be gained by forming a long-term relationship between the organizations. I look forward to offering my leadership skills to plan a strategy of sustainability for Bidwell Riverside and increasing the number of clients we can serve.

www.bidwellriverside.org



Children's Garden Learning Center – Former Board Member

Children's Garden is the only remaining non-profit parent cooperative in Iowa, a child care center that requires parental involvement. As a new mother, Children's Garden was the perfect place to enroll my child as they actively promoted parental involvement in an environment that is an extension of the home. I was eager to get started in serving the organization and joined the board in 2009.

During my time on the board, I served in several different roles and took on various responsibilities. As a small board, we were very hands on. I was the treasurer, vice president and president of the board. I was also involved in serving as a representative for a grant that provided strategic planning for the center.

Children's Garden also went through many transitions during my time on the board. At the time, the center was located inside Wesley Acres Retirement Center. For several summers, the school-age program was expanded to provide care at Bergman Academy, an arrangement that I was involved in setting up. I was also heavily involved in the search for a new executive director when the position was vacated. Wesley Acres made several changes to their facility which caused Children's Garden to renovate classrooms and the playground. At the end of my term, I helped start the search for a new location. The move was completed in 2014 after my term ended.

Serving on the board at Children's Garden helped me grow in many ways. I learned management skills for running an organization, developed leadership skills by leading the board and helping with various employment matters, and developed a passion for serving others.

www.childrens-garden.net



January 8, 2016

Business Record
Attn: Forty Under 40 Selection Committee
The Depot at 4th
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee,

I am writing to you in support of Jennifer Smith, CPA with McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith for the distinction of *Business Record's* Forty Under 40. Jenny is a dedicated leader to her community both in her professional role and in many volunteer roles, including in her new role as part of the Lead Like a Lady membership committee.

Jennifer serves our community as a board member of many charitable causes, including Bidwell Riverside and Hawthorn Hill. Professionally, Jennifer leads a department of 14 employees where she and her team provide high level consulting services. Jennifer is able to balance all of this while also serving as a dedicated mother to her children. As women are pulled in many directions, whether it is family, work or community roles, it is thanks to leaders like Jennifer who are willing to share their story and continue to seek opportunity for growth, that more women in our community feel empowered to taken on new or challenging roles professionally and personally.

I would ask the committee to consider Jennifer Smith as an excellent candidate for the *Business Record* Forty under 40 distinction.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jaimie Miller
President and Co-Founder
Lead Like a Lady
jaimiekmiller@gmail.com
515-710-6962



Partners

Michael E. Brinker, CPA
David A. Farnsworth, CPA
David W. Hurst, CPA
Kathleen A. Koenig, CPA
Robert R. McGowen, CPA
Michael W. McNichols, CPA

Brian K. Newton, CPA
Thomas J. Pflanz, CPA, CFP®
John A. Schmidt, CPA
Daniel A. Schwarz, CPA/ABV
S. James Smith, CPA
Joni M. Tonnemacher, CPA, MAFF

January 4, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: 2016 Forty Under 40 Class – Jennifer Smith, CPA

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my great privilege to recommend Jennifer Smith, CPA as a member of the *2016 Forty Under 40 Class*. Jenny has worked at the McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith firm for six years. During this time, Jenny has demonstrated great talent and determination, and was promoted to Manager in 2013. Through the years, I have watched Jenny master all aspects of her position while gaining responsibility both at MHC&S and within our business community.

Jenny co-manages 14 members in our Assurance Department. She leads by example, and the team members at our firm find her enthusiasm and dedication both inspiring and motivating. In addition, Jenny has worked earnestly and has succeeded in achieving the respect and trust of our Partner group at the firm.

Not only does Jenny excel in her work at the firm, she serves in many leadership roles making Central Iowa a better place to live. She is currently enrolled in the 2016 West Des Moines Leadership Academy class and serves on the Board of Directors of Hawthorn Hill, a low-income housing development, and Bidwell Riverside, a private non-profit organization serving people living in poverty in the Greater Des Moines area. She is also an active volunteer in her church, Lutheran Church of Hope. At MHC&S, we pride ourselves on our corporate values and commitment to our community, and in this area Jenny truly shines.

In addition to her work at the firm and volunteering in the community, Jenny is also a busy wife and mother to four small children. She is a person of great integrity, a team player, and exhibits qualities that would make her an outstanding member of this year's "Forty Under 40" class.

I am honored to work with Jenny and proud to strongly recommend her as a member of the *2016 Forty Under 40 Class*. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 515-288-3279.

Sincerely,

Robert R. McGowen, CPA
Managing Partner

www.mhescpa.com

Members of CPAAmerica International
and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Founded in 1946

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106 E. Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 312
Winterset, Iowa 50273-0312
515-462-1882 • Fax: 515-462-1577



New Directions Shelter • The Home Connection

New Directions Shelter

Emergency Shelter for Women with Children

515.243.7456

The Home Connection

Permanent Supportive Housing for Families

515.244.9748

January 4, 2016

Forty Under 40 Award Nomination

Business Record

100 4th Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Forty Under 40 Award Nomination for Jenny Smith

To Whom It May Concern,

I highly recommend Jenny Smith for the Forty Under 40 award. I have had the pleasure of working with Jenny as a Board Member for Hawthorn Hill for almost 2 years. She also serves on Hawthorn Hill's Finance Committee.

Jenny also serves on the Board for Bidwell Riverside Center. Hawthorn Hill has a management assistance contract with Bidwell Riverside and I serve as the nonprofit's Interim Executive Director.

Jenny has provided exemplary leadership for Hawthorn Hill and Bidwell Riverside Center. Hawthorn Hill is a local nonprofit that provides emergency shelter, affordable housing and supportive services for homeless families with children. Bidwell Riverside Center has a child development center that serves low-income families and a food pantry that is the most heavily used pantry in DMARC's food distribution system. She has helped both nonprofits achieve strategic achievements to further serve the many families and individuals that come to Hawthorn Hill and Bidwell Riverside Center for a helping hand.

Jenny not only provides leadership for Hawthorn Hill and Bidwell Riverside Center, but also personally donates not only with contributions but also through volunteering. Jenny also provides important professional financial expertise for both nonprofits through her experience as a CPA.

Jenny is a true pleasure to work with, and she has truly helped make Hawthorn Hill and Bidwell Riverside Center better nonprofits through her leadership, generosity and compassion to help others.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 283-1911 or tim@hawthorn-hill.org.

Sincerely,

Tim Shanahan
Executive Director



January 8, 2016

Dear Panel Members Choosing the 2016 Forty under 40 Awards,

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation for Jenny Smith. Jenny has now been managing our annual audit, with her team from the McGowen, Hurst, Clark, and Smith Firm, for about seven years. Jenny has brought a new perspective to my perception of the ritual of the annual audit. In the past (pre-Jenny), the annual audit usually consisted of several days spread out over a few weeks with accountants stowed away in a remote conference room. Of course there was some interaction, but usually a pretty dull experience. This experience changed when Jenny began to lead the team.

Jenny has always performed her job with the utmost professional knowledge and skill. Business issues are presented and analyzed with the skill of the experienced professional and the personality of a leader doing the right thing. I look forward to our sessions and value our professional relationship.

In addition she has made it a much more personal and interesting event for me. She will take the time to spend explaining where they are at the moment and what can be expected during the next several days. In addition, we get a chance to discuss kids and families.

In closing, Jenny is one of those people I have met through business that I trust unequivocally. She has done an outstanding job representing herself and her firm. I have met and worked with many Forty Under 40 Award Winners during my career. Taking into account her career, her civic activities and her love of family and friends, Jenny would be an asset to the group and would bring a perspective that would be truly beneficial.

Sincerely and with Best Regards,
Control Installations of Iowa, Inc.

Wayne C. Hansen

Wayne Hansen, CEO