

Jason Swanson
Des Moines Business Record

RE: Forty Under 40 Nomination for Alyssa Young

Dear Jason,

I would like to provide a letter in support of Alyssa Young's nomination for consideration in the 2016 class of Forty Under 40. I have had the pleasure of working with Alyssa through Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity's young professional organization, HYP, as well as Lead Like a Lady.

Alyssa is the current President of Habitat Young Professionals (HYP) and has volunteered for several years as a member of the leadership council. When Alyssa took the reigns as the leader of the group HYP had experienced significant decline in membership numbers and had struggled in fundraising to help support the organization. As the staff liaison to HYP I have seen the group begin to grow and experience their best year of fundraising ever due to Alyssa's leadership.

HYP held their first major fundraiser in September of 2015 and raised several thousand dollars to support Habitat's work in the greater Des Moines community. Her guidance of the group has helped them move in the right direction and will ensure that HYP continues to grow in the future.

I was also able to work with Alyssa in a volunteer capacity when we served as members of the Lead Like a Lady communications committee. Alyssa, as committee chair, helped provide structure to a new position within the organization and transformed the way our members communicate with each other.

It is exciting to watch Alyssa develop into a leader both in her role at Drake University and as a community leader, thus I am happy to contribute to her nomination for this year's Forty Under 40.

Sincerely,

Jenna Ekstrom
Director of Development & Marketing, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity
2015 Forty Under 40 Honoree