

January 13, 2015

Forty Under Forty  
Des Moines Business Record  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
The Depot at Fourth  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309



Dear Forty Under Forty Committee:

It is my honor to submit this letter in support of the nomination of Doug Vinsand for the 2016 Forty Under Forty class.

I knew the moment I met Doug that I wanted him involved and engaged with Variety! His energy, compassion and creativity are contagious! Doug first approached me in 2012 about an innovative way to raise some dollars for Variety. The concept....identify and auction dates with 20 of Des Moines' most eligible women and men. We were overwhelmed with the response and the number of people that attended. Des Moines Sweetheart Charity Date Auction has raised more than \$35,000 over the last four years and we anticipate the 2016 event, scheduled for Saturday, January 16, to generate approximately \$10,000.

Doug joined the Young Variety Board (a supplementary board of Variety – the Children's Charity) three months later and the children of Iowa have benefitted! Throughout the years, Doug has....

- raised thousands of dollars for Variety in conjunction with the annual Telethon,
- raised Variety's profile with the Des Moines' young professionals
- provided thousands of volunteer hours
- helped present bikes, helmets and locks to underprivileged children, and
- served on Variety's Grant Committee.

Last year Doug stepped up as Chair of Savor Des Moines, Young Variety's signature event. His leadership brought new energy, ambiance, location and involvement (donors and committee) to this six-year event, generating \$18,000. Doug is leading the efforts for Savor Des Moines 2016 that is scheduled for April 9.

Variety is not the only organization that has benefitted from Doug's efforts! In 2010, Doug cofounded (and now solely organizes) Whiff-It, a whiffle ball tournament that attracts more than 150 participants each year and has generated \$30,000+. Amanda the Panda, Children's Cancer Connection, Kiwanis Miracle League and Variety have all benefitted from Doug's hard work. He has also been an Assistance Coach and Buddy for the Miracle League since 2010 and involved with Young Professionals Connection for the past five years.

I am THRILLED that Doug has made Des Moines his home, chosen to be involved with Variety and devoted his time to making Des Moines the best that it can be! Doug would be a great addition to the 2016 Forty Under Forty Class!

Sincerely,

Sheri McMichael  
Executive Director

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