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Forty Under 40 Selection Committee  
C/O Business Publications Corporation

100 4th Street

Des Moines, IA 50309  
  
 **Dear Mr. Jason Swanson and Selection Committee:**

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I submit my self-nomination for the 2017 Forty Under 40 class. Through my accomplishments as the Heart Ball Director for the American Heart Association and as an active member of my community, I believe I have what it takes to represent our city as a Forty Under 40. To me, a Forty Under 40 is the best of the best. They work hard to make a difference, selflessly and diligently. As you will read in my letters of recommendation and witness from my resume, this is what I do.

Going into my third year at the American Heart Association as the Heart Ball Director, I’ve reflected on the impact that I’ve made not only in Central Iowa but across the nation. As the Heart Ball Director, I work year-round on fundraising, both at the corporate sponsorship level and on an individual level, culminating into a formal gala known as the Heart Ball of which I also plan. Since I’ve been in my position, I’ve increased the funds raised at this event from $350,000 to over $400,000. This past year, through my efforts, we saw a 32% increase over 2015’s event. Not only have I helped secure funds for life-saving research and education at the Heart Ball, but locally our office raised over $1 million last year through our combined efforts in Central Iowa. And that is just the beginning! This year, taking our affiliates mantra of “Go Big,” I made and secured the first six-figure individual donor gift for the state of Iowa. My fundraising, the fundraising of our staff, allows us to provide funds for life-saving research through grant-funding, education and resources such as free Hands-Only CPR training in our community, and availability of a free all-inclusive wellness assessment through our Workplace Health Solutions programming.

The American Heart Association is only one part of my story. My give-back to my community is a huge part of who I am. Last month, I finished my term with the Ankeny Young Professionals Board of Directors. Through this young professional group, I have held many roles including Chairperson and won the Ankeny Young Professional of the Year Award but what I am most proud of is witnessing my vision for this group come to life. We’ve grown from a 100-member organization to nearly 200 in my three years on the board. Our engagement in events tripled, averaging 40 individuals at our events. And we are collaborating with other organizations in the metro, breaking down walls that somehow kept Ankeny within Ankeny. In fact, such collaboration led me to join the Young Professionals of Iowa Board of Directors and bring the annual conference back to the metro; something past boards had avoided doing. And although my term with the Ankeny Young Professionals has ended, I am now able provide the programming and collaboration opportunities on the state-wide level through Young Professionals of Iowa. I was also featured on the cover of the Business Record as a panelist of young professionals. Our goal was to share incite to our employers and peers on how to work with a young professional and/or millennial. The opportunity to speak on behalf of my fellow young professionals is an honor. The fact that I was chosen to be a part of the Business Record piece has made me humbled and more determined to continue advocating and promoting young professionals.

I’ve worked diligently, as well, on the board of Art for Ankeny. When I joined this organization in 2014, the board had raised a little over $3,000 towards the hefty goal of $40,000. My role when asked to join the efforts of Art for Ankeny was to spearhead the fundraising and get us to our financial goal so we could achieve our overall goal to bring a public art installation to the heart of Ankeny. We successfully hit our financial goal this past summer and have now moved on to the next steps of this project. It was not easy and we lost quite a few organizers along the way. And at first glance a goal of $40,000 seems miniscule compared the $400,000 plus that I am raising for the American Heart Association but we raised these funds without corporate donors, all individual gifts, and without any idea or concept of what this public installation will look like. Passion and perseverance for my community and amazing teamwork got us to our first accomplished goal.

Through all the volunteer work and professional work that I do, one thing holds me accountable and that is being a mom. Everything that I do, all the passion I put into my work, is because I want my children to grow up knowing the importance of community and to know that whatever they put their mind to they will achieve, even moving mountains.

**Thank you for your consideration,**

  
  
Kim Hanken