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National Standards

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Des Moines Business Record
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee,

I am very pleased to nominate my Community Foundation colleague, Joe Sorenson, for your Forty Under 40 recognition. I have worked with Joe for over four years in his roles at the Community Foundation. Joe joined our team as a VISTA through the AmeriCorps program. Joe quickly made himself and his work indispensable, and we hired him onto our team at the completion of the VISTA program.

Joe has worked up the ranks to his current position as director of affiliate relations. Through this work Joe provides strategic vision and leadership to a network of 40 county wide community foundations affiliated with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Joe has built strong relationships with community leaders around the state and has mentored, guided and led them as they work to promote charitable giving in their communities. Through the affiliate network, Joe facilitated more than \$15 million in charitable giving in 2016 alone, and \$5 million in community grants annually. Joe's leadership has supported asset growth of 28% in just two years' time, and we look forward to seeing this number grow as we complete reporting on the last year.

Joe's success caught the attention of the nationally focused Council on Foundations, who invited Joe to serve as a Community Foundation Fundamentals Course Instructor, teaching those new to the field about community foundation work. This is a very distinguished position for someone who has worked in the field for only four years.

Personally, Joe is committed to strengthening our community through his volunteer involvement. Joe is just the kind of young leader we want to celebrate through the Forty Under 40 award. He is strategic, driven, collaborative and a wonderful role model to those coming up behind him on our staff team. He is a passionate community volunteer, generously offering his talents to organizations such as:

- Leadership Iowa University – serves as Recruitment Committee Chair on the Board of Directors
- Young Nonprofit Professionals Network – serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors
- Association of Fundraising Professionals of Central Iowa – Serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors
- Junior Achievement – serves as a volunteer
- YMCA of Greater Des Moines – serves as a volunteer

Joe is an extremely well respected member of our staff team. He has planted seeds throughout our state that will produce bountiful charitable giving for generations to come. Joe is also a committed husband to his wife, Molly – an elementary school teacher, and is anxiously awaiting the birth of their first child this spring. I love having Joe as a member of the Community Foundation team and as a member of our community, and it is my very distinct honor to nominate him for this distinguished award. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristi Knous
President