

Business Publications  
Forty under 40  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Recommendation Letter for John Leder

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

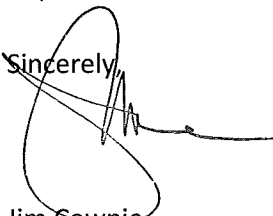
I am writing this letter in support of John Leder's nomination to the 2017 Forty under 40 Class. I have known John since he moved to Des Moines in July, 2006 after relocating from his hometown, Manhasset, New York. After getting to know him better personally, we have also worked with John in a professional capacity as our Property Casualty Insurance broker. John works hard to provide us prompt service and has been a valuable resource on risk -related questions.

John has benefited from working at Holmes Murphy and their philosophy of supporting community involvement, and his wife Emily's native family roots in Des Moines. His early community involvement included volunteering for the United Way, American Heart Association, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, along with serving on the Wakonda Board.

In March of 2009, Emily and John welcomed twin boys Owen and Charlie into the world. Despite their early arrival, and initial weakness, the boys have made the family, and John stronger. John is a dedicated husband and father, who has risen to the challenge his family responsibilities bring. Since the birth of their twin boys, and later their daughter Maeve in 2012, John and Emily have committed to helping other families of children with complex medical condition.

John serves as a Director on both the boards of Variety - The Children's Charity, and Courage League Sports. He volunteers his time, supports their events, and has risen considerable funds under the banner "Owen's Fan Club". I also know he has advocated on behalf of children with complex medical conditions in letters to Senators on behalf of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

The letter above highlights a few of John's activities, and the benefits they bring to the great Des Moines community. I wholeheartedly support the nomination of John to the Forty Under 40 Class of 2017, and hope the committee agrees.

Sincerely,  


Jim Cownie  
JSC Properties

January 9, 2017



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 John Leder's nomination for the 2017 Forty Under Forty class.

John is a Property Casualty Insurance Producer for Holmes Murphy. He has over eight years of experience in the insurance industry. I met John in 2013 when Variety provided a specialized bike to his son, Owen. I quickly realized that not only was John a devoted father and husband, but also committed to our community. John has been a member of Variety – the Children's Charity's State Board since 2014.

Throughout the years, John has....

- raised thousands of dollars for Variety in conjunction with the annual Telethon,
- provided numerous volunteer hours
- helped present bikes, helmets and locks to underprivileged children, and
- served on various Variety committees, including the Grants Committee.

John's involvement with Variety has resulted in improving the lives of underprivileged, at-risk and special needs children throughout Iowa. His efforts have helped provide thousands of children with a new bike, helmet and lock; Variety vans to transport children to educational, medical and cultural activities; neonatal intensive care equipment for tiny infant patients; and backpacks full of school supplies so that children get a good start to the school year.

Variety is just one example of John's commitment to our community. John has been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa and Courage League. John is a true champion of our community!

John would be a great addition to the 2017 Forty Under Forty class. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheri McMichael  
Executive Director

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100 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Recommendation Letter for John Leder  
Business Record – Forty Under 40

Dear Forty Under 40 Committee Members:

I am honored and privileged to recommend John Leder for the Forty Under 40 Class of 2017. I have had the pleasure to work with John over the last several years as a member of our Courage League Board of Directors. A key component to our board mix is to have members who have been affected or work with children or adults living with a special need.

John is a dad to a special boy named Owen. Owen has several life challenges ahead, and John is right there to pave the way for him. His relentless pursuit of the best educators and healthcare providers for Owen carry over with his involvement and passion with Courage League, Variety Club of Iowa, and Blank Children's Hospital.

As Courage League has grown, so has John's commitment to our organization. John's leadership and strategic thinking have moved the needle forward for our organization and have been a key component to our growth. John has cultivated many relationships in our community. He does this through integrity and passion. Thus, more awareness of those living with a disability and the need for services for them.

John's commitment towards improving the overall quality of life of others in Greater Des Moines is demonstrated through his involvement to many organizations. Not only is his son Owen special, John is a special father, business leader, and friend who will continue to be impactful for our community for several years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Melissa Clarke-Wharff*

Melissa Clarke-Wharff, Founder/Executive Director  
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