**Des Moines Downtown Chamber**

301 Grand Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50309

(515) 309-3229

www.DTchamber.com



December 6th, 2016

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Keshia Meissner to be among this year’s *Forty Under 40* Class. Keshia and I met over five years ago when I had just started at the Downtown Chamber as Executive Director, and she had just begun her Executive Director career at the Beacon of Life. She quickly became involved with a chamber committee, then moved up as Chair of the committee, and is currently concluding her role as Chair of the Des Moines Downtown Chamber Board of Directors.

When we first met, Beacon was a quiet organization with a big impact, and Keshia took the charge of making sure the community was aware and supportive of their work, while also respecting the deep privacy of the Beacon’s clients. In addition, her role keeps her occupied on evenings and weekends through not only basic needs at the main facility, but also through the Beacon Boutique shop in West Des Moines, a consignment store with proceeds serving the Beacon of Life.

I often pause when observing Keshia work. She is very young, and capable beyond her experience. Few challenges faze her and she pursues them through her intelligence and the deep connections she’s strived to foster. We are fortunate to have Keshia leading in our community. Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chittenden

Jennifer Chittenden

Executive Director,

Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce

*Forty Under 40 Class of 2014*