

December 18, 2013



918 SE 11th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-282-YESS (9377)
Fax 515-282-6162

www.yessiowa.org

Business Publications Corporation
100 4th Street, The Depot
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Des Moines Business Record's Forty Under 40 Recommendation

Dear Selection Committee:

I would like to recommend Justine Peebles for the 2014 Business Record's Forty Under 40 class. I am familiar with the Forty Under 40 and understand that Justine will be judged upon her career achievements as well as what she has done to support our community. I believe the things that Justine has accomplished would make her a superb addition to this group of upstanding young citizens.

Justine became familiar with Youth Emergency Services and Shelter in 2009. YESS is a private nonprofit organization serving children and their families in Central Iowa. The agency opened in 1973 as a drop-in center for runaway teens and has grown into a well-established, highly-regarded, accredited agency designed to keep children safe. YESS is a safety net of services, providing healing and hope in times of crisis. As the largest youth shelter and the only crisis nursery of its kind in the state of Iowa, YESS serves over 1,000 children each year - newborn to age 17 - providing emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and counseling services in an effort to heal families and change lives. YESS' range of services meet the physical, mental, and social health needs of children and teens, creating an environment where families can thrive.

At YESS, we rely on our volunteers to aid us in our mission, which is to meet the critical needs of the community by providing a continuum of quality programs designed to keep children safe and families together. From 2009-2011, Justine was at YESS nearly every Wednesday afternoon assisting in the nursery or in the teen room. She bonded with the children that she worked with, studied their backgrounds and genuinely loved them and cared about their well-being. Justine was always concerned about their next steps and whether they would be there when she returned.

Justine truly has a gift for helping the less fortunate children in Des Moines and has made it her mission to break the cycle of poverty, abuse and food insecurity within these families. I believe that Justine deserves this honor because she continues to work in bettering the lives of children by investing her time in children who have been in traumatic situations. . I hope you will consider including Justine in the 2014 Forty Under 40 class.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Quirk

Executive Director, Youth Emergency Services and Shelter