

January 6, 2014

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

I am writing you to recommend Niki DePhillips for a 2014 Forty under 40 award. It is actually quite surprising to me that she has not been named to this award before. To me, Niki embodies this award given everything she has accomplished at such a young age both professionally and personally.

Not only is she the youngest female executive in Kum & Go's history, she is one of the only female executives in the convenience store industry. She earned this position with hard work and dedication, as you can see by her career progression. Niki is also extremely giving of her time in the community; she has participated in countless volunteer efforts over the years from serving meals to providing raffle items to various causes to participating in numerous charity walks, runs, etc....literally too many to count. She is also chairing Couture for a Cause this year, which benefits Children Cancer Connection. I seriously have no idea how she does it all...and always with a smile.

While her professional and personal accomplishments speak for themselves, the best thing about Niki is impossible for you to glean on paper. She's an amazing wife, mother, friend, leader and colleague. I trust her implicitly and she's one of the most dependable people I know. There aren't many women who understand what it's like to be in a super demanding and stressful job while doing everything you can to provide a healthy and nurturing home life as well as keeping up with the civic causes you are passionate about all while your husband works full time- it makes me exhausted just thinking about it! However, when you talk to Niki it becomes clear her secret is that she stays completely grounded no matter what. Her priorities are in check and she remains a calm, humble, gracious woman no matter how many "balls" she's juggling at any given time.

So, back to how she's not been named to this award before...while Niki is always willing to give of her time and talents, she does so in a humble, low key way. Her style is to let others shine and she is not one to seek out the limelight. So, I'm doing it on her behalf and I hope you help me bring some limelight to her...she certainly deserves it.

I would be happy to discuss Niki more in depth should the committee need more information.

Best regards,

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