

Forty Under 40 Selection Committee
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my privilege to submit this letter of support for Brooke Mickelson's nomination to the 2018 Forty Under 40 class.

To know Brooke is to understand that her generosity of spirit is only exceeded by her determination to see anything she is affiliated with succeed. She excels both as an entrepreneur and as a community volunteer all while caring for her four young sons and husband.

In 2013 Brooke took a personal passion, baking, and transformed her home kitchen into a thriving business – Brookies. Her cookies have been the recipient of seven Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbons and each year sales of Brookies have increased more than **400%**. Brookies have received national attention from NBC's Today Show, Inside Edition and MSN. It is not uncommon for Brooke to sell thousands of cookies in a single week (and wear out a few mixers in the process). Brooke's creativity and desire to make each customers' celebration special is baked into her products and has earned her a dedicated following both locally and nationally.

Nothing Brooke does is ever on a small scale. Inspired by the care her youngest son received for a rare genetic kidney condition at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital, Brooke co-founded The Iowa Wave Shirt LLC. The group set out in August of 2017 to sell 300 t-shirts in support of the Children's hospital. To date, the organization has sold over **23,000** t-shirts and contributed over **\$440,000** to the hospital!

Brooke's zeal for life is infectious and makes her a role model to anyone pursuing their passions. She is an outstanding leader, gifted business person and exceptional volunteer. I hope you will give strong consideration to her nomination as I know Brooke is a truly deserving candidate for this honor.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Brendemuehl
Communications Manager
Forty Under 40 Class of 2013
