January 7, 2018

Business Record

100 4th Street  
The Depot at Fourth   
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Forty Under 40 Nominating Committee:

I am writing to recommend Kara Clark, to the 2018 Forty Under 40 class. She is a consummate professional, is making a significant impact at Kum & Go and beyond, and would make a great addition to this year’s honorees.

I’ve had the pleasure to lead Kara since 2014 and see her grow in her role and influence within Kum & Go and as a professional.

Kara originally came to us in 2013, after 8 ½ successful years at Wells Fargo. Her new role at Kum & Go was as Project Manager on the Continuous Improvement & Project Management (CIPM) team. This role is our lead business cross-functional project manager. As part of this initial role, she successfully launched one of the largest projects in our history, a new labor and scheduling system impacting thousands of Associates. She accomplished this by using her ability to negotiate, develop partnerships, and follow-through on this massive body of work. These skills, along with her strong focus and determination, provided a platform for her to be regarded highly at Kum & Go and stand apart from her peers.

From her successful launch of the scheduling platform, I promoted Kara to Senior Continuous Improvement Manager to follow her passion of helping our stores execute flawlessly. Over the last 3 years she has worked with the Stores and Operations team to find new and innovative ways to make our stores’ and customers’ days better. Not only has she embraced this role, she continues to integrate her previous knowledge of our labor models to make an even greater impact to our business. She is indispensable and a fantastic partner across our company.

Not only does Kara excel in her work, but she is always looking for opportunities to grow and contribute. Kara was the co-founder of the Kum & Go Women’s Network, now in its forth year of existence. Additionally, she was Chair Person of our United Way Committee and a committee member. Her work goes beyond Kum & Go and philanthropy. She is a devoted mother and wife who spends time with her daughters encouraging, volunteering and assisting with various extracurricular activities.

I am very glad to be able to write this recommendation for Kara Clark. I believe she embodies the work ethic, drive and contribution to our community that makes her a great fit for the Forty Under 40 class of 2018.

Please let me know if I can provide further information or answer any questions regarding Kara and this recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Ryan Vanyo

Vice President Continuous Improvement & Project Management