

January 10, 2019

Dear Review Committee,

Please accept this letter of recommendation in support of Derek Nelson's nomination for Forty Under 40 Award. As Executive Director of Eat Greater Des Moines, I have had the pleasure of working with Derek thru a professional partnership and as an Eat Greater Des Moines board member.

Eat Greater Des Moines (EGDM) is a young non-profit organization whose mission is to unite the community in providing access to quality food for all. We build community through food. By bringing people to the table, we empower partners in our community to connect, support one another, and move ideas into action through information sharing, building relationships, and providing education on the most urgent issues related to food in our community.

I've had the pleasure of working with Derek professionally through his role as the Manager of Sustainability for Kum & Go. Derek initiated, developed and launched a food rescue program in 2016. This initiative is having an enormous impact in the two years since the initial launch and is now implemented in over 230 Kum & Go stores. This is an amazing accomplishment in itself. We are lucky that over 40 stores are in the greater Des Moines metro. Through the program Derek initiated with Kum & Go, over 270,000 meals have been given to organizations supporting those in need in Polk county alone.

As a board member, he is exactly what every non-profit organization dreams of. He is engaged, supportive, fun, and actively working to move our work forward. His support has been integral to scaling up and expanding our work.

When looking for representatives that embody the Forty Under 40 Award, Derek Nelson is the perfect example of an individual making an impact both professionally and throughout the community. I could not recommend him more highly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aubrey Alvarez', with a stylized, flowing script.

Aubrey Alvarez, MPA
Executive Director
Eat Greater Des Moines