**

January 7, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the “40 under 40” nominations for Mike Israel. We have been blessed to have Mike as our volunteer since 2012. Mr. Israel has continued to show accountability, integrity, compassion, and dedication to our mission "Love in Action", and to our community within Iowa Hospice.

Mr. Israel has always kept his commitments with our hospice patients. He is thorough in his visits, and conscientious in updating his information as required. He continues to keep in touch with our patients, and keeps our nurses updated. This clear communication is crucial in providing the best support for our patients in our community.

In the last year, Mike increased his level of volunteering by taking extra training . Mike assists us on all levels as our patients (and their families) journey through this process. As a vigil volunteer, Mike visits at the last hours of a patient's life, supporting the patients and their families. Mr. Israel also volunteers as a bereavement volunteer, providing support for the families after their loved one has ended their journey.

I believe our community and our organization is blessed to have individuals like Mike Israel. His dedication to accountability, integrity, and compassion are ideal models of what we look for in leaders within our community.

Thank you!  
  
Kathryn Smorodinsky

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