

Date: 07 January 2015

To : Forty Under 40 Selection Committee
The Depot at Fourth
100 4th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From : Joseph R. Benesh
920 36th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Regarding : Ryan Crane Forty Under 40 Recommendation Letter
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Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee,

I am happy to nominate Ryan Crane for the Forty Under 40 list of 2015. His charisma, his passion for social justice and his desire to learn are three of the things that I find most striking about him.

Ryan is a leader whose charm and energy can light up a room, as I have seen with my volunteer work with him on New Leaders Council. When necessary, he takes that same energy and passion, and can bring a group into focus to accomplish an objective.

Equality and social justice are where Ryan focuses his time personally and professionally, and he does so with skill. Since moving to Des Moines in 2008, Ryan has worked for LGBT equality, women's rights, and has fought for the uninsured, the homeless and those living with HIV/AIDS. In his volunteer time-- where he finds it-- he does much of the same work, showing that his passion has no boundaries. His work and his volunteerism and his heart for the underdog all mix, which makes him a perfect asset for Primary Health Care, where he currently works as Development Director.

I have had the opportunity to present and facilitate two strategic planning workshops with Ryan in the room, and he is attentive and curious. When I presented new ideas, he was one of the first to express interest in trying them. He knows that a good leader doesn't always have all the answers, and he isn't afraid to ask for guidance.

Ryan is an important part of the Des Moines Community. Based in no small part to the characteristics listed above, I am proud to recommend Ryan for the 2015 Class of Forty Under 40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph R. Benesh', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph R. Benesh
Forty Under 40, Class of 2014