

January 5, 2015

Dear 40 Under 40 Committee,

I am proud to nominate Ryan Crane, Development Director at Primary Health Care, for this year's 40 Under 40 class. Ryan's advocacy, his enthusiasm and his desire to be involved in the community are all encouraging signs that he is ready to lead in Des Moines.

I know Ryan in a couple of different capacities (New Leaders Council and LGBT activism), and his extensive work to advocate for under-represented and marginalized Iowans is impressive. He has taken the torch of New Leaders Council, a national group that advances young progressive leaders, and has brought energy and dedication to the local chapter. His advocacy for the marginalized—be it LGBT people, or the homeless, or low-income women—has had a huge impact across the state. His entire life is built around advocating for underrepresented populations in greater Des Moines.

Ryan's enthusiasm and energy might be the thing that people notice most about him. He can engage anyone in a conversation, and is always excited to make connections and forge new relationships. Ryan's energy and passion is one his greatest qualities.

His bright-burning passion won't burn out anytime soon, as he is genuinely interested in making Des Moines a better place for young professionals. He has noted the positive changes he has seen in Des Moines in just the 7-or-so years he has lived here, and he wants to stand on the shoulders of the civic and nonprofit leaders who have made it a great city today.

I recommend Ryan without reservation, and I look forward to working with Ryan in central Iowa for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keegan Kautzky', with a stylized, cursive script.

Keegan Kautzky

Director of National Education Programs

World Food Prize Foundation