To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Jason Kiesau and I would like to nominate and provide a letter of recommendation for Zach Smith as a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree.

Zach Smith is what being a Forty Under 40 is all about. He is a leader who is in the selfless pursuit of making the world a better place. As the Director and Owner of ManUp Iowa he and the counselors and mentors he leads are changing the lives of at-risk boys throughout our community. I have had the privilege to work closely with Zach in a number of capacities over the past few years.

The thing I love about Zach is that it’s not about him. It’s not about popularity and visibility to build the Zach Smith brand, but he’s managed to work with and get in front some major influences in the community that find value in the mission he is on. It’s not about doing things to position himself to receive recognition and win awards. He doesn’t stray from his values and the mission he is on. That’s a leader.

When I think of what being a young professional is all about I think of someone who is young, passionate, and ambitious. Someone who walks their talk, has a burning desire to make the world a better place, and most important, takes a massive amount of action. Zach is all of that.

In my experience as the 09 & 10 VP of Professional Development with the YPC, a two year active board member with Young Variety, and a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree, I have had the amazing opportunity to work beside and serve with some of Des Moines’ finest young leaders and professionals.

Zach makes the cut and is doing everything our community desperately needs our young professionals to be doing and for the right reasons. Without any doubt and hesitation, Zach Smith deserves to be honored as one of the 2015 Forty Under 40 honorees.

Thank you for your time and attention to this. Please let me know if I can provide any further value during your selection process.

Jason Kiesau  
Training & Development Manager  
Merit Senior Living