



May 12, 2016

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Dear Des Moines Business Record Award Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Meighan Phillips as the recipient of the 2016 Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence Award. Meighan's list of accomplishments is already impressive and worthy of recognition. Looking ahead, there is no doubt that Meighan will continue to create lasting impact on so many lives and the community as a whole.

Meighan is one of the most authentic women I know. Her genuine smile and caring heart shine. Meighan is passionate, driven and goal focused with a consistent and incomparable aura of warmth. She is a natural at helping others feel comfortable and inspired. Her personal approach combined with her intuition, strategic thinking and creativity further position Meighan as a highly respected and influential woman.

Time and again, Meighan has also demonstrated her commitment to the community. Specifically, over the last three years Meighan has become an incredible ally for the kids at Youth Emergency Services & Shelter (YESS). She is one of the agency's most engaged and aware advocates. Beyond generous financial investments, Meighan also "rolls up her sleeves" and puts her community spirit into action at the shelter and crisis nursery. Whether it's playing a game with a child, serving meals, planning a fundraiser, or sharing strategic perspective with a project committee, Meighan is the right person for the task. She adapts to every situation.

Another important talent Meighan brings to the forefront is her ability to inspire others to become involved in the community. Over the years, she has connected several of her peers to YESS' mission. In each of these introductions it is clear that they (members of both her social and work circles) value and trust Meighan. It is a treasure to simply listen to Meighan tell YESS' story. She taps into each of her experiences with YESS and explains our work accurately, eloquently, and compassionately. Through her willingness to engage others, Meighan is influencing a larger circle of support - and ultimately an even greater lasting impact in the lives of many.

Meighan's list of attributes and successes only continues on from here. She is a remarkable example of a role model for both young and the well-established professional women in our community. Meighan has mastered the balance of career advancement and community involvement alongside the priority of her own children and being a wonderful Mom.

Thank you for your kind consideration of Meighan as an Emerging Woman of Influence.

Best Regards,

Julie Schneider, Chief Advancement Officer