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Meredith Emerging Woman of Influence  
Nominating Committee

Dear Committee

I nominate Jessica Nelsen for the Emerging Woman of Influence Award. Her tireless work for Susan G. Komen of Greater Iowa has shown her to be a budding leader in the nonprofit world. Her recent startup, Sisterhood Soup, demonstrates her vision of the future - an encouraging, empowering world where women rise to meet their potential. She is also strong of character and strong of spirit, and that makes her uniquely qualified for this award.

I first met Jessica six years ago at Drake University when we were both working to obtain our masters in public administration. I was immediately struck by her desire to be in the service of others, which I have found to be a rare quality in a world where everyone is out for themselves. Jessica and I became fast friends and school colleagues, committed to supporting each other through the best and absolute worst times of our lives.

As young, career-loving moms, we frequently talk about our professional futures and goals. She recently told me, "One of my favorite things to do is help people identify their strengths." I cannot think of a better statement to sum up why Jessica deserves this award. Jessica is the rare leader who wants to use her knowledge, experience, and influence to positively encourage others to affect change in themselves and in their communities. That is a special leader, indeed.

Respectfully,

Emily Holley