



June 2, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my honor to offer a letter of recommendation for Laura Allen and her nomination for the Emerging Woman of Influence recognition. Laura has served on the Board of Directors of Children and Family Urban Movement (CFUM) for almost three years. In that time I have come to appreciate deeply her personal commitment to making the community a better place for everyone to live.

From the beginning Laura brought her skills as a leader to bear on the mission of CFUM. Early on in her Board tenure a chairperson was needed for the Organizational Effectiveness Committee—a Board committee charged with broad oversight from human resources to program evaluation to long-range planning—and Laura eagerly and ably stepped into that role. She also currently serves as vice-president of the Board, slated to become president in 2015.

Laura wants to get it done. She is endlessly willing to bring her considerable energy, breadth of experience, and sphere of influence to the work at hand. Whether she is involved in discussion and decision-making at the Board level, strategizing and implementing an organizational process or project with a committee, or volunteering at a CFUM program—Laura is about getting it done with the maximum engagement and the greatest result. In her time on the Board she has helped to get several projects, both short-term and more strategic projects identified and completed engaging both Board members and community members in the process.

Always, Laura's work to get things done happens with a broader view and vision in mind. She knows and lives the value of personal influence on community building and betterment. She is clearly not just getting a task completed, getting the work of the day done; she is getting us all down the road together—in better shape, more connected to one another, more aware of both the assets within and the challenges facing the community. When Laura walks into a meeting, an event, a program, a need of any kind she walks in with a commitment to and energy for getting something significant done. She does so enthusiastically, generously, quietly, collaboratively, with humility and grace, and with a sense of the larger picture—a community that can only be better when all of its citizens are fully engaged.

It is my honor to work with Laura Allen and to join in her nomination for the Emerging Woman of Influence recognition.

With deep gratitude,

Carmen Lampe Zeitler  
Executive Director