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June 13, 2016

Sage Over 70

Business Record

Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in wholehearted and enthusiastic support of Ellery Duke as a candidate for Sage Over 70.

Ellery has truly been a life-long public servant, devoting his time, intellect and talent to creating a nonprofit organization to provide counseling and therapy to people in crises regardless of income.

As the chief executive of the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center for almost four decades, Ellery has led the expansion of the Center from one therapist and a handful of clients in 1979 to 26 counselors serving more than 4,000 people annually, including children, adolescents, adults, couples and families.

Ellery’s commitment to ensuring that all people have access to quality counseling led to the development of a signature annual fundraising luncheon called “Women Helping Women.” Now in its 18th year, the event attracted 500 attendees and supporters and raised over $115,000 for counseling services for low-income women.

As a personal example of his passion and dedication, in 2012 Ellery biked across the U.S. in 30 days to raise awareness and funds for mental health services.

Ellery Duke is a respected advocate and spokesperson for mental health services in Iowa and across the country. He has devoted his life to advancing mental health and holistic wellness. He deserves to be recognized a “Sage.“

Respectfully submitted,

Sally J. Pederson