



Blank Children's Hospital

UnityPoint Health

1200 Pleasant Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 241-5437

June 28, 2016

A service of Iowa Methodist Medical Center

DSM Magazine
Sages Over 70
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Mariann Clark

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to serve as one of the nominators for Mariann Clark for Sages Over 70. Anyone who knows Mariann knows she has touched thousands of lives in our community as a nurse, as a physician recruiter in our hospitals and as a community volunteer. While she may be small in stature, she has been a giant for Iowa Methodist and Blank Children's Hospitals and the Des Moines Community.

Mariann began her career with us as a graduate from the Iowa Methodist School of Nursing in 1950. During her amazing nursing career she worked in the Emergency Department, Blank Children's Hospital, and helped open Iowa's first open heart surgery program. Her focus was always on providing the best possible care and advancing programs that would improve the health of the community.

After her career as a nurse, she continued her dedication and leadership to recruit the best qualified physicians to Des Moines. Mariann understood that in order for the Des Moines metro community to grow and prosper, the best physicians were key to the bigger goal. She would settle for nothing less than the best and she knew it wasn't enough just to fill the position, but to make sure the physicians and their families became well rounded members of our community. She developed a mentoring program to help ensure their professional success and integration within our community.

Mariann has also been a wonderful ambassador with the retired physicians in our community. She has planned more get-togethers and holiday parties than any of us could count in order to keep the physicians engaged and connected with the community. In addition to all that she has done for the medical community, she has also been actively involved in numerous charitable organizations both as a volunteer and philanthropist. Mariann, along with her husband Bob, have been instrumental in helping other organizations to fulfill their missions – all with a focus on improving the community that she loves so much.

Only in recent months at the age of 87 has Mariann started to enjoy a semi-retirement which is well deserved. It wasn't uncommon for Mariann to be the first person in the office and the last one to leave. We have been so fortunate to have Mariann as part of our team and our community for over 55 years. One of our physicians said it best, "She might be small but she is mighty." Mighty in every way that she has lived her life!

Mariann Clark has my highest recommendation for the 2016 Sages Over 70 Award. Her vision, leadership, dedication and spunk are inspiring. Her accomplishments have been transformative for our organization and have made our community a better place to live. Mariann truly embodies all that Sages Over 70 Award represents.

Sincerely,

David Stark
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Blank Children's Hospital and UnityPoint Health - Des Moines