

June 19, 2017

Dear Des Moines Business Record Sages Over 70 Committee:

I am honored to write a letter to you in support of Don Blumenthal as a "Sage Over 70." Don absolutely is someone that deserves to be recognized for the many things he has done for our community and for people in general. The list of accomplishments that Don has achieved will be very long if I were to try to put down everything I am aware of, and, there are many more unbeknownst to me. I don't know of anyone that has gone to Don for guidance or assistance that he has turned away. Don constantly thinks of others and how he can help in the Jewish community and in the larger community.

Don is President of the Foundation Board for the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. He and his wife, Margo, have financially supported the Federation, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, our preschool, and religious school. They were part of the building and decorating process for Caspe Terrace, where all the previously mentioned departments are housed. Our kosher kitchen is named for the Blumenthals. Don established a scholarship process to provide assistance to any Jewish child graduating from high school in the Des Moines area and attending a college in Iowa. He has made it possible for many of our youth to attend college and then come back into our community as talented citizens. Don has established many funds to give back to our community and to the larger surrounding community for years to come.

I have also shared a passion for animals with him. Don supports the Animal Rescue League and other non-profits that take care of animals. He is a very kind and giving person.

Don always looks out after people he knows. He visits people in our community that are ill or unable to get out. He makes sure that people have rides to events. He is always thinking of others, asking if there are people who need assistance. Don then provides that assistance, whatever it is, but he would never tell them that he is the one taking care of the need. He has paid for meals out for people who do not even know him.

Don is a great historian for the Des Moines area and can tell you wonderful and interesting facts and tidbits about our community. He can talk with anyone, and everyone feels comfortable talking with him. When you are out with him, he can tell you something about half the people in the room and what wonderful things they or their families have done for the community.

Don has been a mentor for me in my role at the Jewish Federation. He has never not been available when I have reached out to him, and, has provided very wise guidance just as a "Sage" would. The award that may be given to Don just touches on all he has done as a savvy businessman, an entrepreneur, and a strong supporter of Des Moines and the growth of our community over the years. Without Don Blumenthal the Jewish Federation would not be what it is today and what it will continue to be.

Don is someone that doesn't accept praise and accolades for himself, always saying it is someone else that did the work while he is just in the background. Receiving this recognition may be difficult for him as he doesn't see himself in the spotlight. However, that being said, I can't think of anyone more deserving.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to write this on behalf of supporting Don Blumenthal for an award that will be well deserved. He is a "Sage Over Seventy" but has been a Sage for many years.

Respectfully,

Sharon Goldford
Executive Director

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines



IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE

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Mark Vukovich
President and Chief Executive Officer

June 27, 2017

Sages over 70 Selection Committee
Business Record
The Depot at 4th
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 5030

Dear Selection Committee:

With great pleasure I support the nomination, of Don Blumenthal for the Sages over 70 Award.

Blank Park Zoo has benefited from Don Blumenthal's leadership, support and financial generosity throughout the years.

Over the years, Blank Park Zoo has been fortunate to receive financial support from Don and Margo for projects like our Zoobilation Gala, and the *Wild About Animals* capital campaigns, and general operating funds. They want to have opportunities for our community to be a part of the larger, global community and look for ways for these connections.

Central Iowa is lucky to have individuals like Don who understands how important it is to get involved with and give back to the community in which you live and work. Blank Park Zoo is just one of the many organizations that has benefited from Don's support, skills, wisdom, connections and dedication throughout the years.

Again, on behalf of Blank Park Zoo, I submit this letter of support for Don Blumenthal's nomination. I wish the committee luck with its selection as Central Iowa is incredibly fortunate to have such amazing leaders that have supported this community.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or if you need additional information.

Regards,

Mark Vukovich
CEO

MARK VUKOVICH,
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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