



Stop Enabling and Start Empowering

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have written my share of recommendation letters. This is one I wanted to write.

I have known Magan Messana for over ten years. I did not first know her as a colleague — I knew her as a participant in Ripple of One's program, a woman working through our two-year commitment, and one of its graduates. I watched her grow, and then I watched her turn around and give back to the same program that had helped her. She joined our staff and stayed seven years, moving through roles as Care Manager, Outreach Coordinator, and Volunteer Recruitment lead, among others. To this day she still works with Ripple, now on her own, leading our volunteer and mentor recruitment. That arc tells you most of what you need to know: Magan does not leave things the way she found them.

Let me be specific, because her work deserves specifics.

When Magan saw that our volunteers were being sent to walk beside hurting people without the tools to do it — or to protect themselves — she built the answer. She created our trauma-informed care training, rebuilt our volunteer training and orientation from the ground up, and designed the interview process we now use to match each volunteer to the right client. She helped us create the 90-day probationary period that lets us know, honestly, whether a participant is ready for the two-year commitment before either of us makes it. These were not ideas she handed off for someone else to build. She built them.

In the last two years alone, Magan recruited 265 volunteers across Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, and Anderson Counties, and reworked our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and our care and training dinners into gatherings people actually want to attend. Over her seven years leading outreach and community development, she brought in roughly \$400,000 in sponsorships and donations — and that figure does not count the in-kind support she is forever pulling in to cover a project's gaps: the marketing, the advertising, the food, whatever is missing.

I have watched her land major donors for our annual Star Chefs event and coordinate that event end to end. Here is what makes her rare: Magan can turn a hard no into a yes. She is consistent, she is persistent, and she follows up until a point of contact becomes a partner. That is not something you can teach. Her role has been hard to fill since, because very few people connect the way she does.

She is also not afraid of conflict — with participants, with volunteers, with leadership. Most people avoid the hard conversation. Magan walks into it with discernment and wisdom, and she has a way of letting conflict open into honesty and connection rather than damage. She asks the questions everyone else is dodging. She will not let drifting performance quietly become the standard. When things go stagnant, she is the one who steps back, finds another vantage point, and pulls the team toward the next opportunity.

Magan is a woman of deep faith — but not the kind that floats above the work or hides behind it. Hers is the most practical faith I have seen. She calls out a vision, and then she stays in the work to carry that vision into function. She does not simply trust that things will come together; she puts her hands to it until they do.

I recommend Magan Messana without hesitation and without reservation. Any board, organization, or team fortunate enough to work with her will be the better for it. If you would like to speak with me directly, my information is above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Enders".

Stephanie Enders

Founder and Executive Director

Ripple of One