

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING...

March 5, 2015

I have been asked to write a letter of reference for Kristen Lee-Charlson in regard to her quest for employment. It is my pleasure to do so. I am the retired Founding Director of the Missoula Children's Theatre, the largest touring theatre for child participants in the nation. The company travels to hundreds of communities in the United States and worldwide each year in week-long residencies, and produces a full-scale production using area kids as cast members at each location visited. The mission of the company is *the development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts*. Kristen was employed by the theatre for several years in a managerial capacity, and was most instrumental in the organization's growth and development during that formative time.

Kristen managed the entire Tour program. Hiring and training professional staff, maintaining rapport with an army of volunteers, budgeting the logistics of the project, supervising global travel arrangements for staff and equipment, establishing and overseeing communication with hundreds of novice local presenters, developing extensive marketing systems, and all the while meeting and exceeding her own goals for the company as well as my expectations as her supervisor.

Kristen is highly organized, uniquely creative, and unceasingly disciplined in her work ethic. Her positive, entrepreneurial spirit is an inspiration and, as a bonus, she is personable, extremely intelligent and most interested in the world around her. She is a woman who cares for her fellow human beings and for the health of our planet, but all with a delightful sense of humor. She would certainly be a major asset for any business, non-profit organization or creative situation. Kristen is a team-player and an inspiration to her team-mates. She is respected and enjoyed by her supervisors and her peers alike. I give her my highest unqualified recommendation. I am available for discussion at (406) 544-8173.

Sincerely,

Jim Caron - Founding Director, Missoula Children's Theatre - MCT, Inc. (retired)

July 5, 2014

It is with pleasure that I write this reference for Kristen to support her in pursuing opportunities to share her tremendous talents with respect to sustainable, nutrient dense, and deliciously prepared food.

Over the last 8 years, I have been witness to Kristen's work through a wide variety of capacities. Some of these include managing a beautiful magazine focused on local food; creating an heirloom winter market from scratch; initiating, organizing and managing a buying club and providing members with exceptional quality food and educational opportunities ongoing; successfully representing the Weston A Price Foundation as Chapter Leader; bringing key community members together to connect producers and suppliers for higher quality restaurant offerings; catering to many different events and group sizes; managing a bed and breakfast/retreat type experience; writing a wonderful blog; organizing traditional skill-based workshops; and much more.

What these experiences highlight about Kristen are her exceptional innovation and creativity; her ability to create community around food; her uncompromisingly high standards; and her passion, knowledge and skills with local and traditionally prepared, outstanding food. She is a rare individual who has a vision with respect to her area of expertise and the ability to translate that vision into a unique brand "heirloom foodie" and thriving business. Kristen knows what she is doing when it comes to good food.

Knowing Kristen and learning from her has significantly enhanced my family's health and happiness. We enjoy gorgeous, nutrient-dense food every day that is unprocessed and homemade. Every bite tells a story. Food can indeed be one of the great pleasures in life and, what's more, the choices we make with respect to where our food comes from and how we prepare it has the potential to change everything, personally and globally. Kristen knows this and lives this every day.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Kris Laroche: Private School Teacher, Life Coach and Mother

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2.9.2015

For the past decade, any question linked to food issues in Missoula, has been answered with, “Have you talked to Kristen Lee-Charlson?” Kristen was at the forefront of the local food movement in Missoula and her imprint is felt in all that is present here, particularly the presence of a Winter Market.

She has been the conduit through which local farmers and food purveyors have found audiences through her personal, professional, and legislative work. Kristen’s inexhaustible efforts have given a voice to Missoula’s food community through Edible Missoula magazine, her blog, and through her efforts to make raw milk available to the public. Kristen brings an energy, passion, and panache to all she invests in.

Carolyn M. Grimaldi: Public School Educator and Food Enthusiast

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6.30.2014

I recommend Kristen Lee-Charlson for any position that requires intelligence, leadership ability, drive, organizational skills and attention to detail. She is a motivated change agent with equal measure of head and heart.

Having worked alongside Kristen through a number of projects and through many planning meetings up through the event themselves, I can say that she was always prompt and prepared and a true contributor to the process and outcome.

Specifically we worked together on four Localfest events that garnered attendance of up to 7000 people and placed a keen focus on local commercial and food systems. I also worked with Kristen on a Farm to Table program.

Besides the great work ethic and work related skills, Kristen is also a great communicator. She communicates well one on one, in a group meeting, as well as to the multitudes of audience members whether she's doing live or taped interviews.

Kristen's knowledge of sustainability and food systems is unparalleled in our medium sized community. She does important work and will contribute to any organization that is wise enough to bring her onto their team.

Jon Kuennen: Former Sustainable Business Council Board Member

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