

Employee Owner of the Year Submission for Employee Owner: Meghan Brinker  
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I would like to nominate Meghan Brinker as the Employee Owner of the Year. Meghan Brinker is not only an exceptional and valuable member of our customer service team she also serves on our ESOP Committee. Over the past year Meghan has played a key role in helping to revitalize our ESOP Committee, by bringing fresh ideas to the team, helping to organize and run various employee ownership campaigns and activities, serving as a go to resource and embodying our ownership culture. Meghan has been very successful in her role serving on the customer service team, she is always willing to take on any new challenges that come her way. These challenges range from providing coverage when her co-workers are on vacation or maternity leave or a combination of both during our busiest season, during which she works tirelessly to ensure that the customers receive fast, high quality responses to any of their questions or issues. While excelling in her role as a customer service associate she has also brought several new ideas to our ESOP committee, and helped us keep the ESOP message fresh, and meaningful to our team members. Over the past year she has helped to coordinate various charity drives to help give back to the community, coffee and cake breaks where employee ownership is the topic and teamed up with a few other members to curate and distribute bi-monthly ESOP Communication messages as part of our ESOP campaign. While Meghan has not done any of these things alone we certainly could not have had as much success without her. In closing Meghan is passionate about Employee Ownership, Customer Service and Burwood Group, Inc. and we are very lucky to have her as one of our employees.

Additional information about Meghan:

Meghan joined Burwood in 2015. She is a Client Service Advocate / Office Manager working out of our Peoria, IL location. Since becoming part of Burwood, Meghan has developed an intense dedication to her job. In addition to her daily duties, she has taken on assisting with the planning of Burwood events such as our Holiday Parties, and assisting with the coordination of our regional retreats. She is extremely dependable and is driven to provide the highest quality support to both our clients and internal staff. This was recognized in 2017 when she received a MVP nomination for going above and beyond in her role.

It is evident how much Burwood means to Meghan, and she exudes this in her daily interactions with everyone she encounters. The strong relationships she has built with her fellow Burwood employees, made her a natural fit to join our ESOP committee. Everyone enjoys working with Meghan, and her enthusiastic approach to bringing awareness and knowledge surrounding employee ownership to her co-workers has been a huge asset to our organization.

Since joining our ESOP committee in August 2016, she has embraced the position and has gone above and beyond to bring forth fresh ideas, and incorporate ESOP culture into our events and internal

communications. In addition to regular contributions promoting ESOP awareness in Burwood's quarterly newsletter, Meghan has helped drive the following initiatives company-wide:

- \* October 2016 - Coordinated ESOP Appreciation month parties at Burwood's Peoria, IL and Irvine, CA offices.

- \* Fall 2016 - Helped coordinate canned food drives for our Peoria, IL Normal, IL and Irvine, CA offices to benefit local food pantries.

- \* Fall 2016 - Helped coordinate a toy drive at Burwood's Irvine, CA office.

- \* Spring 2017 - Meghan joined a team that worked with an outside marketing company to put together a 4 part series of companywide email distributions. The goal was to raise awareness surrounding ESOP and answer common questions.

- \* Spring 2017 - Coordinated "Coffee Break" meetings at Peoria, IL and Normal, IL offices to encourage employees to come into the office to socialize with coworkers, and get to meet new employees.

- \* Fall 2017- Coordinated food drives at the Peoria, IL and Norma, IL offices to benefit local food pantries.

Meghan loves taking on new challenges, and is always seeking opportunities to step outside of the box to learn new things. In 2017 she eagerly stepped forward to represent Burwood at the Midwest ESOP Conference on September 7 -8th 2017 in Omaha, Nebraska. She absorbed information on how other companies have been successful in creating an ownership culture, and has brought those concepts back to share with Burwood's own ESOP committee. Meghan is looking forward to implementing those ideas at Burwood in 2018 and beyond.