Record Number of Insurance Professionals - more than 10,000 - Join in Volunteer Service for IICF’s Annual Week of Giving

270,000 volunteer hours contributed to local nonprofits since inception of Week of Giving

Los Angeles – November 21, 2017 – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF), the nonprofit organization that unites the insurance industry to help communities and enrich lives through grants, volunteer service and leadership, today announced the results of its 2017 Week of Giving, the largest ongoing volunteer initiative in the insurance industry. Having set a record level of participation last year, the number of industry volunteers grew again in 2017, by 20%, for a total of nearly 10,200 insurance professionals joining together to support those in need. IICF reported more than 28,800 hours of volunteer service, in 173 cities - almost 60 more cities than last year and a 50% increase - across the United States and United Kingdom.

Held this year from October 14 - 21, IICF’s annual Week of Giving brings insurance industry professionals together for a week-long series of volunteer projects to serve local nonprofits and charity organizations in their own communities. These include volunteer events designed to support at-risk women, children and youth, the homeless and food insecure, those with disabilities, senior citizens, military veterans and other areas of focus for IICF’s five divisions. Projects are designed to allow industry volunteers the opportunity to give back to the communities where they live and work, and support nonprofits providing vital services at the local level.

“In the life of the IICF volunteer programs, we have involved more than 100,000 insurance industry employees in community volunteer projects across the U.S., and over the last two years in the U.K,” said Bill Ross, CEO of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation. “It is incredible to see the continued growth of industry volunteerism and the Week of Giving, as each year more insurance professionals make volunteering a priority and give of their time and talent in helping those in need. This year, with Week of Giving following so closely after devastating hurricanes and wildfires, insurance volunteers not only still found time to participate, 1,700 more than last year joined the effort!”

In addition to organized volunteer projects, the IICF Week of Giving also offers the opportunity for personal giving. Week of Giving contributions directly benefit the IICF Early Literacy Initiative, which aims to help provide every young child the opportunity to read and write, regardless of income, by delivering research-based literacy resources to underserved communities. Each IICF division hosted a Week of Giving volunteer event promoting early childhood literacy, where volunteers utilized materials from IICF’s Every Day is a Reading and Writing Day - our free, bilingual and multimedia program developed in partnership with Sesame Workshop, through an IICF grant made possible by insurance industry contributions.

“The extraordinary dedication of the insurance industry volunteers was on full display during Week of Giving,” observed Wendy Houser, Chair of the IICF Southeast Board of Directors and Regional President of Markel. “It is remarkable to see the many ways IICF volunteers give back to their communities. We had several hundred volunteers working together on maintenance and cleaning at the National Cemeteries right here in Texas to honor our veterans, and hundreds more preparing meals.
and working in food pantries and shelters from San Francisco to New York and beyond in London. Several hundred volunteers and young children participated in early literacy events. Others cleaned trails in national parks and beaches in the Western states, and executives volunteered their expertise through career counseling in the Midwest and U.K. Working through IICF, there is such an array of opportunities to make a real difference in the communities where we live and work.”

“Another wonderful aspect of Week of Giving is that we bring together insurance professionals at all career stages, from CEOs to those just beginning work in the industry. We were excited to have so many teams of young insurance students, members of the Gamma Iota Sigma business fraternity, participate in Week of Giving this year,” added Bill Ross. “These future insurance industry leaders are showing the importance of philanthropy and will help ensure industry commitment in the future.”

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**About the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF)**
The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) is a unique nonprofit that unites the collective strengths of the insurance industry to help communities and enrich lives through grants, volunteer service and leadership. Established in 1994, IICF has contributed $28.7 million in community grants, along with 270,000 volunteer hours by more than 100,000 volunteers, to hundreds of charities and nonprofit organizations, reinvesting in local communities where funds are raised. IICF is a registered nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Learn more at [www.iicf.org](http://www.iicf.org).

**Contact:**
Alisa Breese  
Communications Director  
Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation  
O: (949) 481-3741  
M: (949) 207-9717  
abreese@iicf.org