Chubb, HUB International and MarshBerry Executives Honored at the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation’s Annual Blazing the Trail Benefit

Nearly a dozen local charities to be awarded IICF grants at the event

CHICAGO (Feb. 28, 2017) – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) Midwest Division will host its 6th Annual Blazing the Trail Benefit on Thursday, March 9 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. The annual gala gathers insurance professionals from dozens of leading companies, as well as representatives from local nonprofits, in celebrating the insurance industry’s commitment to philanthropy.

“In its sixth year, the IICF Midwest Division’s Blazing the Trail Benefit will bring together hundreds of insurance professionals from all facets of the industry for an evening in celebration of philanthropy,” said Mary Cummins, Executive Director of the IICF Midwest Division.

During the benefit dinner, IICF will honor three insurance industry executives for their exemplary philanthropic leadership, including:

- Kevin Smith, EVP, North American Field Strategic Development Officer, Chubb
- John Wepler, Chairman and CEO, MarshBerry
- Clark Wormer, Managing Director, Mergers & Acquisitions, HUB International Limited

Since its launch in 2011, the Midwest Division has awarded more than $1.7 million in community grants and provided over 5,500 hours of service to Midwest nonprofits. Funds raised at the event will benefit nonprofits focused in the areas of health, safety and education, including the following eight that will be awarded $150,000 in funding at Blazing the Trail:

- Breakthrough
- Chicago Lights
- Children’s Home + Aid
- Cornerstone School
- Gateway for Cancer Research
- Genesys Works Chicago
- Midtown Educational Foundation
- Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society

Additional grant recipients, designated as beneficiaries of onsite fundraising conducted during the Blazing the Trail Benefit, will include:

- By the Hand Club for Kids
- buildOn
- Lazarus House

The featured speaker will be Joel Wood, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (CIAB). Dubbed one of the top insurance industry lobbyists in Washington, Wood will share post-election insight and speak on what the next decade holds for the insurance industry and philanthropy.

A portion of the evening’s fundraising will benefit the Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne, a 501(c)3 organization founded by Wood and his wife Dana in honor of their son, which provides meaningful funding for research and treatments of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Chicago news anchor, Rob Johnson of CBS 2, will serve as emcee of the event.
IICF thanks the following sponsors for helping to make this event possible:

- Platinum Sponsors: CNA and Zurich
- Gold Sponsors: Applied Systems, Chubb, Hellman & Friedman LLC, Lloyd’s, Swiss Re

For additional information on Blazing the Trail, including registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit the 2017 Blazing the Trail website or contact Mary Cummins at (312) 995-4583 or mcummins@iicf.com.

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About the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation

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 $25.3 million in community grants, along with more than 240,500 volunteer hours, 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.

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