IICF Midwest Division to Host Blazing the Trail Fundraiser on March 5
Zurich North America CEO Kathleen Savio to be named Trailblazer of the Year

Chicago, IL (February 27, 2020) – The Midwest Division of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF), a unique nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities and enriching lives, will host their signature benefit dinner in the Midwest, Blazing the Trail, March 5 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago. The event gathers hundreds of members of the insurance industry and regional nonprofits to celebrate charitable giving in the insurance industry and bestow the annual Trailblazer of the Year award.

This year, the Midwest Division will be presenting the IICF Trailblazer of the Year award to Kathleen Savio, CEO, Zurich North America, for her remarkable philanthropic efforts and leadership in the insurance industry. Notably, Savio was a founding member and the first Board of Directors Chair of IICF’s Midwest Division. She currently serves on the board of the Z Zurich Foundation, a charitable foundation funded by various members of the Zurich Insurance Group designed to support a fairer, more open and sustainable society by empowering vulnerable people within its communities to better protect themselves from risk, and to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world. Savio is a board member and serves on the Executive Committee of the American Property Casualty Insurance Association. She is also a board member for The Institutes and on the Advisory Board for the NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business. She is also a member of The Chicago Network, an esteemed group of Chicago’s most influential women.

“Promoting charitable endeavors and creating opportunities for volunteerism within our company and for our employees, to make a positive impact in the community, has always been a priority,” said Savio. “I am honored to be named the Trailblazer of the Year and on behalf of all who’ve worked together since the founding of the IICF Midwest Division, thank you for giving back to our communities and making a real difference in the lives of so many individuals and families.”

This year’s Blazing the Trail Dinner Chair will be Lori Goltermann, CEO of U.S. Commercial Risk Solutions, Health Solutions at Aon. Having spent nearly three decades in insurance and with Aon, she is actively involved on a number of boards, including the Lincoln Park Zoo, The Chicago Network, as well as the Special Olympics.

“We are delighted to recognize an incredible leader in the insurance industry like Kathleen, who has established such an influential example for both industry professionals and rising talent,” said Goltermann. “The insurance industry has the power to make a significant difference within our communities and we are proud to have leaders like Kathleen lighting the way.”

Proceeds from the 2020 Blazing the Trail event will benefit the IICF Midwest Community Grants Program, which supports regional charities and nonprofits focused on education, safety and health. Last year’s event raised $450,000 and since its founding in 2011, IICF’s Midwest Division has granted more than $2.9 million to over 150 nonprofits.

IICF’s Midwest Division 2020 grant recipients include the following local nonprofits:
- A House in Austin
- By the Hand Club for Kids
- DuPage Pads
- Midtown Educational Foundation
- Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society – the Children’s Clinic
- Project VISION
Blazing the Trail will also feature former Chicago Bear and Walter Payton Man of the Year Charles “Peanut” Tillman. Once an NFL star and now a philanthropist, Tillman launched The Charles Tillman Cornerstone Foundation in 2005, a nonprofit impacting the lives of critically and chronically ill children and their families in and around Chicago. He also participates in several other charitable efforts, including rowing 65 miles across Lake Michigan last year to raise nearly $200,000 for pediatric cancer research.

IICF would also like to highlight our sponsors who help make Blazing the Trail possible:

- Platinum Sponsors: AON, Zurich and CNA

For more information regarding tickets and sponsorships please visit the IICF Blazing the Trail Benefit Dinner event website or contact Kelly Hartweg at (773) 991-2149 or khartweg@iicf.com.

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 served as the philanthropic foundation of the insurance industry for more than twenty-five years, contributing $36 million in community grants along with 300,000 volunteer hours by more than 110,000 industry professionals. IICF reinvests locally where funds are raised, serving hundreds of charities and nonprofit organizations, for maximum community impact. IICF is a registered nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Learn more at www.iicf.org or follow us on Twitter @doubleicf.