Insurance Industry Awards over $400,000 to Local Nonprofits, including $20,000 to Make-A-Wish Greater® Los Angeles, at Horizon Awards Gala

*IICF’s Golden Horizon Award Presented to Mark Wells of Wells Media Group*

Los Angeles, Calif. (March 22, 2017) – Hundreds of insurance professionals, along with representatives from local nonprofits, attended the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation’s (IICF) annual Horizon Award Gala on March 16 at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. Hosted by the IICF Western Division, the evening marked a celebration of the insurance industry’s ongoing commitment to philanthropy as $424,300 in grants, a record amount, to 44 charitable organizations were announced during this “A Night at the Museum” themed event.

IICF’s mission of helping communities and enriching lives includes at its core support of those in need in our local communities. “Through the generous volunteer and funding contributions of our insurance industry supporters, we’re able to give back to our local communities in the West in a meaningful and significant way,” noted Melissa-Anne Duncan, Executive Director of the IICF Western Division. “The Horizon Award Gala, which brings together hundreds of insurance professionals each year, is our occasion to celebrate the industry’s dedication, and raise additional support for nonprofit organizations.”

“We are so fortunate to be in this industry, and in a profession in which our primary function is to provide essential protections and services to people who need us and trust us to be there for them,” added Jerry Pickett, CEO of the Liberty Company Insurance Brokers and Chair of the Horizon Award Gala. “So of course, it only makes sense that as an industry, we should offer our full support and commitment to nonprofit organizations, whose primary function is also to provide essential protections and services to people who need them and trust them to be there.”

All proceeds of the event benefit local nonprofit organizations throughout Southern California. This year’s featured nonprofit, Make-A-Wish® Greater Los Angeles, played a special role in the evening as guests heard the personal story of “Wish Kid” Theo, who spoke of the very real impact of Make-A-Wish grants on the lives of children and their families. Theo traveled to Disneyland Tokyo through a grant last year, fulfilling his wish and inspiring an aspiration to one day become a Disney Imagineer. IICF is proud to partner with Make-A-Wish® and through live fundraising at the Horizon Award Gala, raised more than $20,000 for the organization, which will fund two future wishes.

Each year during the gala, IICF honors an individual or organization within the insurance community with its Golden Horizon Award. This year’s honoree was Mark Wells, Editor, CEO and Publisher of Wells Media, home to Insurance Journal, Claims Journal, MyNewMarkets, Insurance Journal’s Academy of Insurance, and Carrier Management, in recognition of his industry leadership and philanthropic commitment. Under Mr. Wells’ leadership, Wells Media has been an ardent supporter of IICF and has served as a platform to highlight industry-wide philanthropic contributions, and over the past ten years has donated more than $1.2 million to insurance-related charities. After thanking the industry for all that they’ve done in giving back to the community, and encouraging them to keep doing it, Mr. Wells offered a reminder that “Every little bit makes the world a little bit better. We’ll make it a little bit better this year, and the next year, and the next year.”

Through its Community Grants Program, IICF raises funds within a region and reinvests back into the same region and its communities. The full list of this year’s grantees includes nonprofits across IICF’s Western Division that are dedicated to making a positive impact in their communities, focused in the areas of education, at risk children, and health and human services.
The IICF Western Division includes six hubs in California, along with chapters in Arizona, Colorado and Washington.

For more information about IICF please visit: [https://www.iicf.org/about-iicf.html](https://www.iicf.org/about-iicf.html)

**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](http://www.iicf.org).

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