Former Lloyd’s of London CEO honored at Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation’s Midwest Division Annual Fundraising Benefit and Celebration of Industry Philanthropy

The Wood Family Foundation’s Pitch In Program, founded by former Chicago Cubs Kerry Wood and his wife Sarah Wood, is a featured nonprofit organization and special presenters

Chicago (January 28, 2019) – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) Midwest Division is hosting its signature benefit of the year, Blazing the Trail, in Chicago as it celebrates philanthropic contributions of the insurance industry and presents its annual Trailblazer of the Year award for philanthropic leadership in the industry and community. The 8th annual IICF Blazing the Trail event is set for March 7 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Dame Inga Beale, former Lloyd’s of London CEO, will be honored as the 2019 Trailblazer of the Year. Beale became the first female CEO of Lloyd’s of London in 2014 and is an illustrious leader who has been renowned for her work in creating more diverse and inclusive workspaces. Beale’s philanthropic services and contributions led to her appointment as Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017. During her tenure at Lloyd’s of London Beale helped construct Dive In, an annual festival promoting diversity and inclusion in the insurance sector. In 2015, Beale was recognized by Financial Times as one of the top 100 LGBT+ executives.

“We must commit to ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion in order to strengthen our industry’s future success,” said Dino E. Robusto, chairman and chief executive officer, CNA, and chair of the 2019 Blazing the Trail event. “We are proud to support IICF Blazing the Trail and honor Inga as Trailblazer of the Year. The insurance industry — and our next generation of leaders — is fortunate to have benefitted from her leadership and innovation.”

Beyond Beale’s efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion in the workspace, she serves as a trustee for a number of charities, including Insuring Women’s Futures, Try for Change and Stonewall. The missions of these organizations include closing the financial pay gap between men and women, supporting disadvantaged children through sports and advocating for equal rights for all people.

At the Blazing the Trail benefit, The Wood Family Foundation’s Pitch In Program is a featured nonprofit organization for their exemplary work in the community. The Pitch In Program is an after-school model that employs high-quality mentoring relationships and exposure to unique experiences to ensure that 4th-8th grade students develop the academic and social-emotional skills and mindsets necessary to transition to high school successfully.

Proceeds from the 2019 Blazing the Trail event will benefit the IICF Midwest Division’s Community Grants Program, which helps support nonprofit organizations focused in the areas of health, education and safety. Last year’s Blazing the Trail proceeds funded grants to ten local nonprofits addressing vital needs in underserved communities. Since the founding of the Midwest Division, IICF has awarded more than $2.6 million in local community grants in Chicagoland and throughout the Midwest.

Chicago’s own news anchor Rob Johnson of CBS 2 will serve as Blazing the Trail emcee for the fourth year. Johnson will conduct a question and answer session with special guests Kerry and Sarah Wood of The Wood Family Foundation.

IICF extends our appreciation to the following sponsors for their generous support of this event:

Presenting Sponsor: CNA; Platinum Sponsor: Zurich; Gold and Silver Sponsors: Applied Systems, Marsh, Ryan Specialty Group, and Swiss Re / Alliant Mesirow, AmWINS Brokerage of the Midwest, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance, Chubb, KPMG, Lloyd’s, Mayer Brown and The Hartford

To purchase tickets and sponsorships for the 2019 IICF Blazing the Trail benefit on Thursday, March 7 at the Four Seasons, please visit the 2019 Blazing the Trail 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 over $31 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.

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