Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation Raises Over $1.2 Million for Northeast Nonprofits at its 11th Annual Benefit Dinner in New York

NEW YORK (December 21, 2017) – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF), a nonprofit organization working with the insurance industry to help communities and enrich lives, announced that nearly 800 insurance professionals attended the annual charitable gala hosted by its Northeast Division on December 13th at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. While celebrating the insurance industry’s commitment to philanthropy, more than $1.25 million was raised to fund the IICF Northeast Division’s Community Grants Program, which provides grants to local and regional nonprofit organizations and charities throughout the Northeastern U.S.

The event featured celebrity speakers Gayle King, Co-host of “CBS This Morning” and Editor at Large, O, The Oprah Magazine, and five-time World Series Champion and Yankees legend Mariano Rivera. Both delivered moving speeches on the importance of education and community involvement, and accepted honorary grants on behalf of the charitable organizations The Ana Grace Project and The Mariano Rivera Foundation.

During the dinner IICF honored Ryan Specialty Group for its philanthropic leadership with the 2017 IICF “Double I” Award for influence in the industry and impact in the community. Patrick G. Ryan, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Ryan Specialty Group, accepted the award on the company’s behalf following an introduction by Timothy W. Turner, Chairman and CEO, Ryan Turner Specialty and 2017 IICF Northeast Benefit Dinner Chair. “RSG is very proud to have received this distinguished award from the IICF Northeast Division and applauds all of our friends in the insurance industry for their tremendous commitment to philanthropy. Insurance leaders have stepped up, and with their colleagues as well, allowing for a multiplier effect to care and share with those in need,” remarked Mr. Ryan.

“The annual IICF Northeast Benefit Dinner has raised nearly $8 million over the past eleven years, funding more than 100 grants to nonprofit organizations in our local communities. These grants, made to organizations focused on early education, children at-risk, disaster preparedness and the environment, are made possible each year by the collaborative efforts of hundreds of professionals in the brokerage, underwriting and services sector of our great industry,” said Hank Watkins, Chair of IICF Northeast Division Board of Directors and President, North America, Lloyd’s. “Our fundraising success, led this year by dinner honoree, Ryan Specialty Group, benefits individuals and families throughout the New York tri-state area and greater Northeast region.” Last week’s event also introduced a text-to-give option which resulted in nearly $50,000 in additional pledged funding for the 2018 IICF grants program.

“The IICF grant will allow us to expand our reach into additional schools in New Britain, Connecticut, providing critical services. Additionally, it is a reminder that the wellness of our children is paramount and is a worthy investment,” shared Nelba Marquez-Greene, Founder and Executive Director of the Ana Grace Project. The Ana Grace Project was born as a response to the tragedy that took the life of Ana Grace Marquez-Greene in Sandy Hook, CT on December 14, 2012. The Ana Grace Project is dedicated to promoting love, community and connection for every child and family.

The 21 grant recipients in the IICF Northeast Division this year are as follows:

- Boys Hope Girls Hope
- Children’s Health Fund
- Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown
- Delaware Youth Center
- Eden Autism Services
- Family Center for Autism
- Friends of Karen
- God’s Love We Deliver
- Helping Horseshoe Therapeutic Riding Cub
- High Hopes Therapeutic Riding
- Horizons at Sacred Heart University
- Jake Koenigsdorf Foundation
- Michael Gerard Puharic Memorial Foundation
- Mount Kisco Child Care Center
- Oliver’s Orphan Oasis
- Our Military Kids
- Stoked Mentoring, Inc.
- Sunrise Day Camp
- The Ana Grace Project
- The Mariano Rivera Foundation
- Vanderheyden

For more information about the IICF Northeast Division, please visit: [https://www.iicf.org/about-iicf/northeast-division.html](https://www.iicf.org/about-iicf/northeast-division.html)

**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) or follow us on Twitter @doubleicf.

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