Dallas, TX (February 8, 2018) – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF), a nonprofit organization working with the insurance industry to help communities and enrich lives, today announced that 650 insurance professionals and industry supporters attended its sixth annual Southeast Benefit Dinner on February 1st at the Ritz Carlton Dallas. More than $900,000 was raised to support grants that benefit nonprofits located throughout the Southeastern U.S. during this celebration of the insurance industry’s ongoing commitment to philanthropy and community.

“The IICF Southeast Benefit Dinner brings together insurance professionals, philanthropic leaders and nonprofit representatives each year for a special evening celebrating the remarkable work of IICF and the generosity of the industry,” said Wendy Houser, IICF Southeast Division Board Chair and Regional President, Markel. “This year we raised a near record amount, and through our collective efforts we will be helping so many, individuals and families, in meaningful ways and throughout the Southeast. On behalf of all Southeast IICF board members and supporters, we extend our most heartfelt appreciation to Tom Curtin, a founding member of the IICF Southeast Division, for his very generous matching donation and for all that Tom has done for our communities and industry.”

During the dinner the IICF Southeast honored Tom Curtin, Chairman and CEO, CRC Insurance, with its 2018 Philanthropic Leadership Award. “Tom has had a tremendous impact on these and other important causes, but the true spirit of his generosity is often expressed in more personal and far less public ways. He is always thinking of how he can help others; how he can live up to that adage ‘from those to whom much is given, much is expected’”, shared Neil Kessler, Chief Operating Officer, CRC Group and 2018 IICF Southeast Benefit Dinner Chair. “It is impossible to know the impact of Tom’s generosity. The scope of his positive impact. He is always first in line to help - in large ways and small ways; in public ways and private ways. Tom is truly a catalyst for good.”

All proceeds from the night’s event will fund the IICF Southeast Division’s Community Grants Program, which provides grants to regional charities that champion causes in the areas of children at risk, education and veterans. This year an additional $46,000 was pledged for nonprofits through a new text-to-give option, along with a $50,000 matching contribution by Honoree Tom Curtin, for the 2018 IICF grants program. The event also featured an appearance by special guest Jimmy Johnson, former NFL head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

“We’ve awarded 23 grants to nonprofits and charities who are doing such vital work in our local communities in Texas, and throughout the entire Southeast,” said Sarah Conway, IICF Southeast Division Executive Director. “We were also privileged this year to work with Make-A-Wish® North Texas in granting the wish of a very special guest, “wish kid” Vedant, whose dream of visiting Australia and the Great Barrier Reef will be made possible by IICF supporters. Thanks to insurance industry generosity, and working together through IICF, we’re able to make this dream come true and help so many others, truly making a positive and lasting impact.”

The 23 grant recipients in the IICF Southeast Division this year are as follows:

- Alliance for Children
- Camp Summit
- Catholic Charities of Fort Worth Veterans Program
- ChildCareGroup
- Children’s Advocacy Center of Colin County

- Children’s Health
Since the founding of the IICF Southeast Division in 2012, over $2.8 million has been granted to more than 100 nonprofits in the region. In addition to providing community grants, the Southeast Division volunteered 6,000 hours with local nonprofits during the most recent IICF Week of Giving.

Last year, following the devastating natural disasters, insurance industry supporters contributed more than $630,000 to the IICF Disaster Relief Funds to help recovery throughout the Southeast and beyond.

For more information about the IICF please visit: https://www.iicf.org/about-iicf.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 or follow us on Twitter @doubleicf.

Contacts:
Alisa Breese
Communications Director, IICF
Phone: (949) 207-9717
Email: abreese@iicf.com

Sarah Conway
Executive Director, IICF Southeast Division
Phone: (214) 228-2910
Email: sconway@iicf.com

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