In Their Own Words

“The impact of the IICF grant and the purchase of the new Read 180 and System 44 programs will allow more of our Vanderheyden students the opportunity to gain stronger reading, writing and listening skills. Ensuring that our students can read provides them the best opportunity for future success in the workforce and community citizenship.”

- Karen Carpenter Palumbo, CEO at Vanderheyden, Wynantskill, NY

25th Anniversary of IICF:
Look for information coming soon on more ways to be involved.
IICF Welcomes CNA, Ernst & Young and Mayer Brown Executives to its International Board of Governors

At its quarterly meeting on March 8, the IICF International Board of Governors formally elected and welcomed its three newest members:

**David Alberts**: Partner, Mayer Brown
**Kevin Smith**: President and Chief Operating Officer, CNA
**Sophia Yen**: Principal, Insurance Strategy & Innovation Leader, Ernst & Young

All three are industry leaders and long-time IICF supporters, with great involvement in industry and personal philanthropy within their communities. Dave Alberts and Kevin Smith have previously served on IICF Division Boards, as Northeast Board member and Midwest Board Chair respectively, and Sophia Yen has been a significant contributor to the IICF Women in Insurance Conference Series.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dave, Kevin and Sophia to the IICF Board of Governors, representing three of IICF’s Key Partner Companies,” said Barbara Bufkin, Chair of the IICF International Board of Governors and Executive Head of Business Development, Commercial Lines, Assurant. “We’re excited about their leadership and contributions at this strategic level of the Foundation, as well as the extensive knowledge and experiences within the industry they bring to the board, especially as we move forward into IICF’s twenty-fifth anniversary year and beyond. Congratulations to all three on their board elections.”
To view the complete listing of IICF International Board of Governors, please click here.

More than $1.6 Million Raised at Annual Benefit Dinners in Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles in First Quarter

$2.8 Million in total from four annual benefits since December

The month of March saw very successful annual benefit dinners hosted by both the Midwest and Western Divisions, following galas in Dallas and New York within the past few months, as IICF joined together insurance professionals and supporters in celebration of the insurance industry’s ongoing commitment to philanthropy and community – while raising over $2.8 million for local nonprofits. With each benefit dinner reflecting unique aspects of the IICF divisions, these events all feature inspiring speakers, awarding of important grants and the dedication and generosity of the industry in helping those in need and serving our local communities.

The 7th annual Blazing the Trail Benefit was held in Chicago on March 8th, welcoming more than 350 guests and raising over $400,000 for nonprofits throughout Chicagoland and the Midwest. Proceeds fund the IICF Midwest Division Community Grants Program, including grants announced at the event to 8 nonprofits, focused in the areas of health, safety and education.

IICF also awarded its 2018 Trailblazer of the Year to Deborah Babcock of the Katie School of Insurance at Illinois State University, for her exemplary philanthropic leadership and exceptional service to the insurance community, in particular, students and young professionals.
Those in attendance were inspired by Mary Kate Callahan, member of USA World Championship Paratriathlon teams, advocate for Paralympic programming and an international sports envoy, and her personal story of perseverance and overcoming institutional barriers in creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities. Guests also heard motivating words from Bill Curry, Chief Program Officer of Breakthrough in Chicago's Garfield Park neighborhood, attributing much of their literacy success to the IICF Community Grants awarded to Breakthrough.

Click here to hear more from Breakthrough and how IICF is making an impact in the community in this news segment from Chicago's own, news anchor Rob Johnson of CBS 2, who served as Blazing the Trail emcee for the third year.

One week later, on March 15, the IICF Western Division hosted more than 300 hundred insurance professionals and supporters - raising over $300,000 at its annual Horizon Award Gala in Los Angeles. IICF also announced $340,800 in grants to 44 nonprofit organizations, those dedicated to addressing vitally important causes related to children at risk, education and human services, at this year’s gala. All proceeds of the event benefit local nonprofit organizations throughout the Western states, focused in the areas of education, at risk children, and health and human services.

IICF presented its 2018 Golden Horizon Award, which honors an individual or organization within the insurance community for dedication to philanthropy and the betterment of our communities, to Jim Darling, Regional Executive Officer, Pacific Region of Chubb. Jim was honored with this award for his exemplary personal and industry leadership and philanthropic commitment, including helping to raise more than $1.5 million in funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation over the past thirty years. On Jim's behalf as the 2018 Golden Horizon Award honoree, IICF presented a $10,000 grant to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
The 2018 Horizon Award Gala also featured a special grant presentation of $15,000 to the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation, a nonprofit organization that serves as the major source of private financial support for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and provides support for needs not met by the city budget. In 2017, the IICF Western Division raised $82,000 through insurance industry supporters – including both individual and corporate donors - through its IICF California Wildfire Relief Fund. These funds were granted directly to nonprofits in the fire-affected areas, those directly serving individuals and families in the communities devastated by the wildfires.

To read more about these inspiring events and those honored, please click here for the Midwest Division Blazing the Trail Benefit Dinner or here for the Western Division Horizon Award Gala post-event press releases.

IICF Philanthropic Roundtable Convened with Insurance Industry Leaders

Along with the Midwest Blazing the Trail Benefit, IICF hosted its first Philanthropic Roundtable of 2018 in the Chicago area on March 7. IICF Philanthropic Roundtables offer the opportunity for a productive exchange among insurance industry supporters on a range of important topics in the areas of philanthropy, community outreach, corporate social responsibility and more. Executives from IICF board member companies participated in the Chicago Philanthropic Roundtable, which also included a special presentation on the Insurance Careers Movement by Marguerite Tortorello, highlighting the challenges and opportunities related to talent development in the insurance industry.

IICF extends a special note of thanks to Zurich for their hospitality and hosting the Roundtable at their innovative new headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The next IICF Philanthropic Roundtable will be held on September 26 in New York.

A Meaningful Way to Celebrate Women’s History Month:
Register for the IICF Women in Insurance Regional Forums

IICF’s Women in Insurance Conference Series has positioned the insurance industry at the forefront of the national conversation on diversity, inclusion and leadership - at the intersection with innovation by:
• Exploring powerful and relevant topics
• Featuring highly acclaimed speakers who are leaders in a range of fields from business, academia, research and beyond
• Providing outstanding networking opportunities
• Facilitating creative workshop and learning experiences and
• Unleashing your potential!

Along with these benefits and so many more, very real financial and intellectual value can be realized by attending a Women’s Conference. Learn more in this article: Do Women’s Networking Events Move the Needle on Equality?

Register now and save: Click here for Early Bird Tickets

IICF Women in Insurance Conference Series

Regional Forums Return in 2018
London, March 7  •  New York City, June 7  •  Chicago, June 14
Dallas, June 19  •  Los Angeles, June 21

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