The DRI Foundation is not just an organization that helps fund after-disaster relief, provides free education and certification to veterans, provides mentoring and free education and certification to women, provides scholarships to those pursuing academic degrees and performs volunteer work. It is, above all, an organization of people who volunteer their time, energy, and intellect to help others. It is a place where passionate and determined people come together to try to better the human condition. In the past year, the DRI Foundation through the support of individuals and companies in the resilience community have raised funds that will be used to benefit others.

We truly live in challenging times, and these times need to be met with extraordinary efforts. In the last two months the DRI Foundation has donated over $50,000 to medical facilities and food banks around the country (and a few outside the U.S.). Deciding who to fund was one of the biggest decisions we faced. There are literally tens of thousands of food banks and pantries serving 46 million people (before COVID-19) in the U.S. There are over 6,000 hospitals in the U.S. Faced with these daunting numbers, how does a small organization like the DRI Foundation, decide who to fund? The Foundation has a Giving Committee that is tasked with reviewing applications, vetting potential donation organizations, and making recommendations for funding. As the Foundation is staffed by only volunteers (there are no paid staff), asking people who have very demanding day jobs to try to ferret out donation-worthy organizations placed too great a burden on the committee. So, we decided to ask the certified community, our staff and volunteers to help us choose worthy organizations. The results were particularly heartwarming.

A donation for PPE was requested by a staff member whose wife works in the emergency room of a local hospital. A request was made to donate to a hospital, in the name of a coronary physician, who had helped the father of a volunteer member. The Women in Business Continuity Management Committee asked that a donation be made to an organization that feeds destitute people in the slums of Sao Paulo Brazil. A Certified Professional asked that we donate to a hospital where his daughter is a nurse. We donated to a food bank where a Certified Professional volunteers to deliver food to those in need. A donation was made, in honor of the delivery of two grandchildren, to a hospital hard hit by the pandemic. And so it went and continues to go as we work to relieve suffering and give hope to those in need.

We are a community. We suffer as a community, and we share as a community. The DRI Foundation greatly appreciates the time, effort, and financial contributions of those whose passion and determination have helped alleviate some of the hardships that we are facing in these trying times.

Thank you all and be safe.

Al Berman
President
DRI Foundation
After Hurricane Dorian devastated the Bahamas, the DRI Foundation donated to World Central Kitchen which served meals to storm survivors. See page 9.

Photo courtesy of World Central Kitchen
Key Achievements

Over $65,000 raised total for July 2019 - June 2020

Over $25,000 given to disaster, rebuilding, and resilience efforts in support of organizations throughout the US and Australia, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, India, Mozambique, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe

Over $20,000 given to COVID-19 relief

$10,000 for College Scholarships:
Two $5,000 awards to children of DRI Certified Professionals

$477,000 in scholarships for the Veterans Outreach Program (awarded to 159 veterans)

$36,000 in scholarships for Women in Business Continuity Training (awarded to 13 women)

40 volunteers including DRI Certified Professionals and their families helped restore a community facility in Savannah

20,000 pounds of food packed for Savannah communities in need

100% of donations received spent on initiatives, not administration*

Figures as of June 30, 2020

* DRI International covers the operating costs of the DRI Foundation.
Global Pandemic Relief donations supported International Outreach’s efforts to help seven communities in India access resources to provide families with 25 kg. of rice and 2 kg. of lentils each. See page 17.

Photo courtesy of Outreach International
Global giving

Our global giving map is an at-a-glance record of your generous donations at work around the world.
Donations After Disasters

We partner with non-profit organizations in communities impacted by disasters to provide help where it is needed most.

Rebuilding in the Wake of Shooting Tragedies

On Aug. 3, 2019, a mass shooting occurred at a Walmart in El Paso, TX, killing 23 and injuring at least 23 others. The El Paso Community Foundation, established in 1977 to benefit the region, received a donation from the DRI Foundation to its fund for families impacted by this horrific act of violence by paying for funeral and other expenses, as well as a separate scholarship fund for the children of those who were attacked.

Following a mass shooting that occurred in Dayton, OH, Aug. 4, 2019, killing nine and wounding 17 others, the DRI Foundation donated to the Dayton Oregon District Tragedy Fund established by the Dayton Foundation. The fund allows individuals to make charitable contributions to help the families directly affected by this terrible tragedy.

“Many people want to reach out and help our friends, families and neighbors in the aftermath of this incident,” said Mike Parks, president of the Dayton Foundation. “Individuals who contribute to the Dayton Oregon District Tragedy Fund can be assured that their donations will be distributed safely and responsibly as we continue to work with local officials in the days ahead.”

Creating Resilience in Communities Hit by Cyclone Idai

Following the destruction in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi caused by Cyclone Idai on Mar. 15, 2019, the DRI Foundation provided a donation to the Reach of Orphans Support Association (ROSA) Foundation. The ROSA Foundation was set up by concerned individuals to support and strengthen existing or budding community initiatives which focus on caring for orphans and vulnerable children, those with long term health conditions, and caregivers to live the life of their choice and to reach their full potential.

The donation helped the ROSA Foundation to rehabilitate destroyed schools, clinics, and homes, provide humanitarian assistance to people impacted by the subsequent economic crisis and food insecurity, build resilience in vulnerable communities, rebuild houses, ensure access to basic needs, and more.
Bringing Hope to Sierra Leone Flood Areas

More than 25 people were killed across West Africa due to heavy rains and flash floods in August 2019. Hundreds were displaced from their homes and several businesses had closed. DRI Foundation contributions to the Be Rose International Foundation (BRIF) helped provide immediate assistance and recovery to the victims of the recent flooding in Sierra Leone. A second donation months later brought breakfast to 960 school children.

“We feel privileged that you selected our project to support out of so many wonderful causes. By adding your donation, you’ve become a part of our community of supporters and we’re thrilled to have you on the team,” said Rosaline Bangura, Founder and Executive Director of the BRIF.

Disaster Relief to Victims of the Kerala Floods

On Aug. 8, 2019, heavy rainfall in the monsoon season led to severe flooding which affected the state of Kerala in India. 121 residents died, thousands of houses were either completely or partially damaged, and 80 landslides occurred due to the flooding.

Support for Gilgal Mission India funded flood relief efforts. The organization aids its region via social activities, awareness and humanitarian efforts to promote unity, build the nation, uplift the poor and restore the dignity of the downtrodden and oppressed. Its primary focus areas are on natural disaster relief, schools and education, and healthcare for children and seniors.

Aid Throughout the Atlantic After Hurricane Dorian

Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 storm, landed in early September 2019, devastating the Bahamas. In the weeks following, the DRI Foundation provided a donation to the World Central Kitchen (WCK), which has served more than 250,000 meals to storm survivors.

“The situation in the Bahamas remains extremely challenging,” said WCK co-founder José Andrès. “Communities are still without communications, water, or power. While many residents have left Abaco and Grand Bahama, many others still remain. From our #ChefsForBahamas kitchen in Nassau, WCK continues to deliver meals to the Abaco islands via helicopter. From there, we then distribute them further with the help of local team members. Meals are being delivered to community centers, clinics, churches, and into local neighborhoods that have been isolated by the storm.”

The mid-Atlantic U.S. coast was also hit hard by Dorian. In Ocracoke, SC, alone, more than 2,000 homes were damaged by the storm, including 50 that were destroyed, and another 100 that sustained devastating damage. A full 40% of Ocracoke residents were displaced by Dorian, and many more faced financial hardship. The DRI Foundation supported the
Outer Banks Community Foundation, a charity that helps meet local needs across Dare County and the entire Outer Banks as it worked to help local nonprofit organizations to rebuild the region.

**Helping Families Through the California Wildfires**

In the aftermath of the wildfires in California that devastated local communities in September 2019, the DRI Foundation provided a donation to Sonoma Family Meal, a non-profit that provides nutritious, chef-made meals for families impacted by the fires.

“The recent wildfires are a reminder of what Sonoma County residents experienced in October 2017,” SFM said. “More than 5,000 homes were destroyed in a matter of hours, leaving thousands without a place to live. Though many of us have returned to ‘normal’ life, recovery is a grueling and timely process for fire survivors. Many still live in temporary shelters, like RV’s or vacation rentals, traveling miles to work and school while rebuilding their lives.”

Since its inception, SFM has provided nearly 160,000 meals to those in need, and is working to expand its efforts via education and outreach. It is a part of the ongoing Rebuilding Our Community Sonoma recovery effort throughout the region.

**Getting Vital Equipment to Volunteers Fighting Australia Wildfires**

As the wildfires in Australia blazed throughout New South Wales in January 2020, the DRI Foundation provided support to the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), the world’s largest volunteer fire service, providing fire and emergency services to approximately 95% of NSW. Members attend a range of incidents and activities, including bush and grass fires, house and structure fires, storm damage, search and rescue, and more.

“The level of support for our volunteers has been overwhelming both locally and internationally,” it said. “There have been lots of big names lending their support – but also many businesses, community groups, schools, mums, dads and kids choosing to contribute.”

Its plans for the donations included establishment of a $10 million volunteer brigades fund for equipment, training, and facilities, as well as rebuilding, equipment, service delivery improvements, and support for volunteers.
Supplying Communities with Basic Needs After Tornadoes

The Community Resource Center of Nashville, recipient of DRI Foundation support, worked with Nashville and surrounding counties impacted by the March 2020 tornadoes to receive, sort and distribute goods to the impacted communities.

Founded in 1985, CRC serves more than 100 nonprofit agencies, providing them with new household goods, bedding, kitchenware, cleaning supplies, clothing and personal hygiene items for their clients in need. Its agencies represent a diverse client base including at-risk children, disadvantaged seniors, victims of domestic violence, refugees resettling in Middle Tennessee, the homeless, those battling addiction, those with mental and physical challenges and other people in desperate need.

Funding Food Recovery and Education on the Local Level

The DRI Foundation supports Feeding Westchester’s mission to end hunger in Westchester County, NY. The heart of a network of more than 300 partners, it sources and distributes food and other resources to towns across Westchester. Feeding Westchester’s program areas are:

- Food Recovery – Every year, it recovers more than 3 million pounds of good, nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste
- Fresh Produce – It provides nourishing choices that support wellness, health and strength
- Children’s Programs – Nearly 60,000 children in Westchester County live in poverty low enough to federally qualify them to receive free or reduced-price school lunch
- Food Assistance – It supplies 95% of all food distributed annually by the region’s local agencies
- Education – It offers resources and education for a lifetime of healthier eating

Building on Economic, Environmental, and Societal Sustainability

The DRI Foundation is proud to provide support to Evacuteer, a New Orleans based organization dedicated to creating safe, resilient, sustainable communities throughout southeast Louisiana.

Founded in 2009, Evacuteer focuses on what it identifies as the three pillars of sustainability: economy, environment, and society. “In order to increase resilience all sectors of the community must take deliberate steps towards resilience,” it says.

Among its representatives is a face that may be familiar to the DRI community — Bonnie Canal, MBCP, a nationally recognized resilience leader and winner of the 2020 DRI Award for Non-Profit Program Leader of the Year, is Evacuteer’s Executive Director.
As a response to the coronavirus outbreak, the DRI Foundation set up a Global Pandemic Fund in March of 2020 to support those hit hardest during this crisis and boost resilience. 100 percent of the funding collected goes to small, local organizations that are an integral part of their communities. Read on to learn how your support is helping where it counts the most.

**Medical Centers – Healthcare Staffers on the Front Lines of the Crisis**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 spread, hospitals and medical facilities have been putting forth a heroic effort to meet the needs of their patients and communities.

*Westchester Medical Center Foundation*’s facilities provide highly specialized care to adult and pediatric patients who are largely medically underserved and economically disadvantaged, dealing with very complex medical issues, and often don’t speak English as a first language. “I am exceptionally proud
of our workforce members for providing the highest level of care to our patients, and stepping up to work in new ways, such as staffing our call centers for testing and workforce support, operating our testing facilities, or assisting with additional efforts to keep our workforce safe,” said Michael Israel, President and CEO of WMCHealth.

**Atlantic Health System’s Foundation** inspires community philanthropy to advance exceptional health care for patients at Morristown Medical Center and Goryeb Children’s Hospital. Its objective is to use philanthropy to preserve and expand programs and services in patient care, clinical research, medical and public health education, and preventive medicine. Just weeks after launching the COVID-19 Support Fund, community members — many first-time donors — gave more than $1.6 million to purchase much-needed equipment for critical care patients.

**NYC Health + Hospitals** is an integrated health care system of hospitals, neighborhood health centers, long-term care, nursing homes, and home care – the public safety net health care system of New York City. Donor funding has been directed toward meals, prepackaged groceries, hotel rooms, laundry service, and scrubs for staffers whose time is consumed with helping patients.

**Henry Ford Health System** comprised of hospitals, medical centers and one of the nation’s largest group practices. It has been active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, providing essential services, responding to the community, and keeping spirits up among its staff in big and small ways:

- Creating their own PPE amid the supply shortage
- Offering guidance and online risk assessment tools after Governor Whitmer's official stay-at-home order
- Deploying a mobile medical unit for newborn care, and
- Sharing photos of staffers donning superhero shirts, and a collage of ER personnel wearing their facemasks.

**The Newark Beth Israel Medical Center’s Children’s Hospital of New Jersey** said, “Thank you for your gift to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Times like these are truly defining moments for all of us. By supporting Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, you have not only supported our patients and medical teams, but also your community. We need each other more now than ever. Thank you for safeguarding the health and wellbeing of those in our care, and those caring for them.”

**Montefiore Medical Center**, the University Hospital for Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is nationally recognized for clinical excellence, ranked among the top hospitals nationally and regionally by U.S. News & World Report. For more than 100 years it has been innovating new treatments, procedures and approaches to patient care. As a response to the pandemic, the hospital has increased its safety measures, cleaning procedures, and social distancing guidelines, while encouraging patients to maintain their health via new services such as video visits with physicians.
Food Banks – Developing New Strategies to Help New Clients

During the pandemic, food banks have become a vital resource for those struggling with sudden job losses and reduced capabilities to provide assistance for their families.

The Food Bank for NYC said, “As the city’s hub for integrated food poverty assistance, your donation helps the Food Bank reach the one in five New Yorkers who relies on our programs and services – from food distribution to income support and nutrition education. None of the work we do would be possible without generous friends like you. And we hope our partnership – ending food poverty in our five boroughs – continues for many years to come!”

The Daily Bread Community Food Pantry works to eliminate hunger in the Perkiomen area of southeastern Pennsylvania by providing residents in need with programs that provide food, promote the value of nutrition, increase self-sufficiency, and instill hope. In doing so, Daily Bread Community Food Pantry helps to ensure that food relief has a more meaningful, enduring impact.

Northern RI Food Pantry, a member agency of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, provides high-quality foods and services to the Northern Rhode Island area to sustain and enrich neighbors in need so they can become as self-sufficient as possible and to improve their quality of life. “We are an all-volunteer, community-supported organization which offers a safe, respectful, welcoming, and compassionate environment to those it assists,” it said.

The Bonney Lake Food Bank is on the front lines addressing the increasing need of food for not only existing clients who are food insecure, but a new client base that has suddenly found themselves seeking its services because of the offset circumstances from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bonney Lake Food Bank provides food and support to over 3,000 people a month facing food insecurity without the COVID-19 pandemic.

The People’s Pantry has worked for 20 years to reduce hunger in western Massachusetts by distributing food in a manner which preserves the
dignity and sense of self-worth of the shoppers. During the pandemic, the pantry has pivoted its approach to serve more people more efficiently, increasing hours and operations, and seeking out new food sources.

The Feeding America network is the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, working to connect people with food and end hunger. Donors, staff, and volunteers all play an important role in its efforts to end hunger in the United States. “With the help of monetary contributions to the COVID-19 Response Fund and critical partnerships with donors in the supply chain, food bank[s] … continue to serve their communities and no food bank has shuttered as a result of the pandemic,” the organization explained in a press release.

Feeding Hands in Somersville, New Jersey, has worked to establish programs such as food pantries to assist the poor and serve its neighbors in need through engaging individuals, churches, and businesses. Since the start of the outbreak, the organization has found alternatives to its usual “hands-on” approach to helping. “We have implemented a personal shopper program to select food and deliver it to the car of guests who are sick or at higher risk, minimizing exposure for those such as the cancer patient who arrived for food for the first time yesterday,” it said.

Food Banks of Canada, a national charitable organization, supports a network of provincial associations, affiliate food banks, and food agencies that work at the community level to relieve hunger. Its work is focused on:
- maximizing collective impact
- strengthening local capacity, and
- reducing the need for food banks.

Lowcountry Food Bank serves the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina through distribution centers in Charleston, Yemassee and Myrtle Beach. Its focus on ending hunger includes childhood and senior programs, nutrition education, produce initiatives, and networking with partner agencies throughout the region. As part of its COVID-19 response, LFB is working closely with partner agencies to determine the safest methods to serve its most vulnerable friends and neighbors — senior citizens and children (and their families) who may be losing access to prepared meals and stocked food.

Northwest Harvest is the only nonprofit food bank distributor operating statewide in Washington with a network of 375 food banks, meal programs and high-need schools. Through this network, it provides nearly 2 million meals every month. The organization has instituted curbside services, adjusted work schedules for staff and volunteers, and worked with policy makers to better serve vulnerable communities.

Hastings Youth Council, composed of eight adult volunteers and two student representatives from each grade in Hastings High School, provides support and resources to the youth of the community and their families. During the pandemic, it has seen a marked rise in visitors to its food pantry, which is supported by donations, food drives, and partnerships with local organizations, and has increased those efforts with a dedicated donation section.
Shelter, Basic Needs, and More for Vulnerable Populations

Local community organizations are vital for ensuring that basic needs are being met for vulnerable populations. During the COVID-19 outbreak, such help is needed more than ever.

The Seattle Public Library Foundation “is rapidly shifting gears to change how it provides services to our public without the use of buildings or in-person visits,” said Jonna Ward, CEO of SPLF in a message to supporters. “And the Library Foundation is doing the same to ensure the Library has funding to deliver services that our community needs right now. We can do this because of the generosity of people like you who love and rely on the Library, have a deep belief in the value of its mission, and recognize the essential role libraries have in reducing social and economic inequalities.”

Switchpoint Homeless Shelter and Community Resource Center empowers families and individuals in need by addressing the underlying causes of their poverty and providing each client with a personalized, comprehensive plan that supports them on their journey to self-sufficiency and the opportunity to contribute to the community. During the pandemic, its emergency shelter continues to remain open 24/7, with the food pantry and soup kitchen still serving Monday through Friday.

Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina launched its COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Fund to accept charitable donations and support communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic consequences of this outbreak. This fund will provide flexible resources to organizations in the region working with priority groups, including senior citizens, children, health-compromised, and workers in the hospitality and tourism industry in its nine-county service area of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton and Horry counties.
The Downtown Rescue Mission has served the homeless population living throughout northern Alabama and southern Tennessee for the past 45 years. It works to change the lives of homeless and hurting men, women and children by providing emergency services, free meals and shelter, recovery services, transitional support and community outreach.

Be Rose International Foundation’s mission is to help women and children who needed humanitarian assistance and medical aid, and help them escape from poverty. “School closures, canceled activities and events, and people working from home – the uncertainty of COVID-19 pandemic changes day by day, hour by hour!” said Rosaline Bangura, in a message to supporters. The organization’s response has covered basic needs for children in Anne Arundel County in Maryland, emergency relief kits to patients in Nigeria, and face masks for Sierra Leone.

Outreach International has directly impacted more than 350,000 people in India by creating indigenous catalysts for permanent change. During COVID-19, the Outreach field staff has continued its work with community members to facilitate construction of hundreds of public hand-washing stations and distribution of rice and household necessities to help families whose livelihoods are dependent on seasonal harvests and working animals. So far, nearly 500 families have received food supplies, totaling more than 12,663 kg of distributed rice and lentils.

First Stop, a homeless shelter serving Huntsville, Alabama, offers programs including:

- Weekly visits to homeless camps to build relationships and provide basic supplies
- Friendly service of meals, mail, showers, and laundry in the First Stop Day Center
- Encouraging participation in enrichment classes for independent life skills and job readiness
- Professional Case Management developing personalized paths to sustainable independent living, and
- A Gardening Program where clients have the opportunity to grow food for consumption in the facility and also bring starter plants, fruits and vegetables grown on the premises to local farmers markets which they exchange for community donations that support First Stop programs.

Mary’s Place, operating in Washington State since 1999, has helped hundreds of women and families move out of homelessness into more stable situations. Across seven emergency family shelters in King County, WA, it keeps struggling families together, inside, and safe when they have no place else to go, providing resources, housing and employment services, community, and hope.

Paraisópolis Women’s Association fights to increase access to equity and security of women on the fringe of society in the São Paulo region. Because of a lack of government support during the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization has stepped up to provide essential services for its community, including meal assistance, ambulance assistance, basic grocery and hygiene needs, emergency rescue, legal aid, and much more.
About the Veterans Outreach Program

Disaster Recovery International (DRI) Foundation is committed to helping our veterans succeed. To do our part, the Foundation has created a Veterans Outreach Program to help our Veterans realize their dreams and help both themselves and their respective organizations achieve great success as they transition into the professions of emergency response, crisis management, business continuity and disaster recovery.

New Training Outlets for Transitioning Service Members in Uncertain Times – The Veterans Outreach Program

As COVID-19 gripped the world, many military service members, who were slated to leave the service soon, were severely impacted by the pandemic as workdays were reduced and many were told to stay at home. Additionally, DOD installations around the world put on hold their critical Transition Assistance Programs (TAP), which are crucial part of a military member’s transition out of the military and into the corporate world. The temporary halt of TAP programs left those who were transitioning out of the service with less than optimal transition resources — resources they needed to be successful in the private sector.

Enter the Veterans Outreach Program, which has awarded $477,000 in scholarships to 159 veterans. The program has worked with transition programs across the U.S. and was quick to recognize the impact COVID-19 could have on military personnel leaving the service. Program leader and USAF Colonel (Ret.) Alan Lake reached out to military installations and transition programs around the world offering access to scholarships, training, professional certification, and help with job placement. The program extended its operations and created numerous online programs for those who were transitioning and stuck in lockdown.

With DRI Foundation’s Veterans Outreach Program’s assistance, U.S. military personnel from all services from across the U.S., Germany, Belgium, Italy, and Romania were able to attend online courses. “We are so proud to be able to find a way to help them,” said DRI Foundation President Al Berman. “It’s tough to make a transition into the corporate world when you get out of the military, under normal circumstances. It’s even tougher without assistance programs and extremely daunting if both of these occur while you are stationed overseas.”
The response and feedback from transitioning military has been incredible.

“DRI delivered the mail during Italy’s COVID-19... the course provided the link between my military experience and the (business continuity) career... Outstanding!”
—Chief Master Sergeant Nate Zinn, U.S. Air Force, Italy

“The DRI Foundation has been the best news. Much of the...training options were canceled or postponed. DRI’s course was essential and it seemed like it was a godsend.”
—Sergeant Jase Mosley, U.S. Army, Texas

“Online class is a perfect opportunity for us overseas to get this class done especially during COVID. Big thanks to those at DRI who put so much effort into making this a reality for us.”
—Chief Petty Officer Karen Gavina, U.S. Navy, Germany

“I am very thankful that you guys were willing to provide the training utilizing online so we could continue training even with the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.”
—Sergeant First Class Michael Rodriguez, U.S. Army, Germany

“Thank you to the instructors and DRI for keeping this program...[for those of us] who are transitioning at a very trying time.”
—Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bryan Miles, U.S. Army, Germany

“DRI’s course on BC provided the opportunity for me to be trained and educated in many of the principles of business continuity that I had been doing in my 22-year career in the military.”
—Lieutenant Colonel Adam Ennis, U.S. Army, Belgium

“This career field definitely aligns with what I’ve done over the past 25 years.”
—Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Jordan, U.S. Army, Germany

“Training teams, planning for business continuity in the face of a pandemic was the nation’s top priority and my calling to continued service.”
—Colonel Andrew Ziegler, U.S. Air Force, Virginia

The Veterans Outreach Program is also helping those recently separated from the military who have earned their Certified Business Continuity Professional credential, with job placement opportunities, interview planning, resume writing and general advice on how to approach the civilian job market.

“We and our volunteers are proud to have helped our military members when they needed it during this pandemic,” said Lake. “We look forward to following their new careers and keeping in contact with them as they bring their experience, knowledge and ‘can do’ attitude to the corporate world – preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural or manmade crisis events.”

**Expanding Training Access with Military Bases**

Last year, the Program expressed a goal of expanding access to military bases where it could offer training. Since then, courses have been hosted around the world, including:

**2019**
- Camp Pendleton, CA
- Joint Base San Antonio, TX
- MacDill AFB/HQ SOCOM, FL
- Warner Robbins AFB, GA
- Naval Station Mayport, FL
- Naval Station Norfolk, VA
- Fort Knox, KY

**2020**
- Scott AFB, IL
- Joint Base Charleston, SC
- Joint Base San Antonio, TX
- European Command (EUCOM), Germany
- African Command (AFRICOM), Germany
- NATO Online
- Space Command (SpaceCom) NORAD, CO
- Ft Carson, CO
- Peterson AFB, CO
- The Pentagon, VA
Women in BCM

The Women in Business Continuity Management (WBCM) is a volunteer committee that seeks to promote, connect, and help develop the industry skills and knowledge of those who identify as women. Here’s a look at some WBCM highlights from the past year.

WBCM Chair Honored

The DRI Foundation Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to recognize an exceptional Foundation volunteer. This year, the deserving recipient is WBCM Committee Chair Diane Doering.

Citing Doering’s gift of “time, energy, and dedication,” DRI Foundation Founder and President Al Berman presented the award at the DRI Awards of Excellence Gala on March 3, 2020.

“Providing a forum to address issues that affect a vast portion of the population requires the focus and dedication of a person who can lead by example has, exceptional organizational skills and the ability to take on group of professionals who have never worked together and form a cohesive team,” said Berman, adding that the WBCM Committee “has demonstrated that they are capable of achieving so much in such a short period of time.”

Doering is a founding member of WBCM and VP, Enterprise Risk Management at Iron Mountain.
WBCM Scholarship Program Launched

This year saw the launch of the WBCM Scholarship for Women program, which helps propel women into professional jobs in the field of business continuity management. In just a few months, 14 women have been awarded scholarships and completed training. Of those, nine have achieved DRI certification – eight Associate Business Continuity Professionals (ABCP) and one Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP).

The program encourages women to apply for a role in business continuity, targeting those who are not already in the field. Scholarship recipients may have been out of the workforce to care for a child or elderly parent and are now looking for a way to return. Or they may be searching for a role that leverages a passion for being organized, working with a diverse group, or making an impact on the organization.

The scholarship is a $3,000 voucher for the 4.5 day DRI course and exam, held in cities across the country and culminating with the exam for DRI’s professional certifications.

High Caliber Content

Want to learn how to be your own best advocate? Need tips on salary negotiation? Wondering how to move forward in an evolving industry? WBCM answered those questions and more over the past year, bringing quality, female-focused content to a diverse audience of continuity professionals.

Teaming with the American Association of University Women (AAUW), WBCM presented the Work Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop, and it was standing room only. Participants developed the skills to determine market worth based on experience, performance, qualifications, and job responsibilities as well as the confidence to successfully negotiate for fair pay and benefits.

Additional workshops included panel discussions, sharing ways to move forward professionally and personally in an evolving industry as well as getting out of your own way and becoming your own best advocate. Look to WBCM for more quality content to come!
DRI Foundation Scholarships

The DRI Foundation Scholarship program, which is made possible through donations from DRI International and DRI Canada, has expanded to two annual awards since its initial inception in 2015.

Starting in 2016, we awarded scholarships of $5,000 to a high school senior and a college student enrolled in a four-year undergraduate program for the upcoming fall semester, and whose parent or legal guardian is a DRI Certified Professional in good standing, in the U.S. or Canada.

2020 High School Scholarship Winner
Tomasina DeLong

Tomasina DeLong of Shaker Heights, OH, prides herself on preparedness. As someone who is part of an at-risk population and the daughter of a continuity professional, she found herself ahead of the curve as the recent pandemic was unfolding. And now she finds herself the winner of this year’s DRI Foundation $5,000 scholarship for a college-bound high school senior.

“When I was six, I almost died from an allergic reaction,” she says. “Since then, I’ve been carrying an Epi-Pen and an inhaler for my asthma.” Her constant companion and “trademark” is her backpack filled with essentials like water, bandages, and ice packs. “I’m kind of the mom of my group,” she says. “I always like to prepare.”

Tomasina recently graduated from Shaker Heights High School with a 4.65 GPA and will be attending The Ohio State University in pursuit of a medical career. Her application contains her prize-winning essay discussing how she could affect preparedness in her community and is headed with the following summary “All-County, All–State, All-American, Class President, etc.” And that about sums it up.

“She’s incredibly smart and incredibly hard working and driven not just to achieve but to help others and serve,” says her dad, Aaron DeLong, CBCP. DeLong is solution lead for security and business continuity services for AXIA Consulting. “Her work ethic is just incredible.”

As for Tomasina, she thinks her dad is pretty incredible too. “I really learned from hearing about his job,” she says. “Looking at everything from every possible scenario has always been a strength of mine. And knowing that if something were to fail, I also know how to back it up.”

2020 high school scholarship winner Tomasina DeLong and her father Aaron DeLong, CBCP.
Tomasina thanks the DRI Foundation and says she is “honored” that she was chosen for the scholarship. “I’m very proud to represent my father and the work he does so well.”

**2020 Undergraduate Scholarship Winner Tia Gordon**

Tia Gordon is a microbiology major and rising senior at Kennesaw State University. By any measure, she is a remarkable young woman, and she is the winner of this year’s $5,000 undergraduate scholarship awarded by the DRI Foundation.

From Lithonia, GA, Tia is the daughter of Thomas Gordon, CBCP, who is a disaster recovery analyst at Truist Financial Corporation. She plans a career in medicine that incorporates research, which is her passion. Tia has an impressive list of accomplishments and accolades to her credit including being selected for New York University Grossman School of Medicine Summer Undergraduate Research Program (Summer 2021) as well as the Advance Undergraduate Institute Program at Stanford University that aims to introduce students to the campus and provide guidance in the graduate school admissions process (Fall 2020). She says she is “grateful and proud to be awarded this scholarship.”

In her application essay, she was asked to identify the greatest risks that she will face as a future leader (read her essay here). “That really hit home for me,” she says.

“I clearly remember the moment my microbiology professor stood in class a few months before the COVID-19 outbreak and said, ‘We are due for a pandemic. Viruses constantly mutate and it is only a matter of time that a deadly virus will attack.’ I immediately questioned to myself – okay, so if we know that a pandemic can happen at any time how do we prepare? How can individuals, our country, and other nations prepare on an international level? What do we do next?”

As a physician-scientist, she says her “scope of work will go beyond the medical clinic. A significant amount of time and professional effort will go towards advancing scientific research and there is not a more perfect time to discuss not only the important role of scientific research, but the other important factors that can mitigate the risks.”

Tia credits her dad with opening her eyes to the world of business continuity issues and also for driving her to “always do better.”

“Yeah, I always challenged her to do a little better even when she was doing very well,” He laughs. “Even all the way back to coaching her in tee ball, I would always say that you have to work hard at whatever you do. Always work on trying to do your best and then see if there’s a way to do better.”

As it turns out, Thomas got the call notifying him of Tia’s win on his birthday. “That was one nice birthday present,” he says.
Volunteerism at DRI2020

The DRI Foundation takes pride in providing opportunities for DRI Certified Professionals to come together, giving their time and effort to assist vital organizations in the cities that host our DRI conferences.

In this sense, Volunteer Day at DRI2020 in Savannah, GA, was a huge success. It’s really amazing to see what a close-knit group of Certified Professionals can accomplish in just a few hours. The Foundation had over 40 dedicated volunteers working hard in the community and the best part of the day was that they had a lot of fun doing it.

Half of our volunteers worked at America’s Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, a locally inspired, volunteer driven nonprofit food bank which serves as the food safety net for tens of thousands of children, senior citizens, low-income families, and people with disabilities who are at risk for hunger throughout Southern Georgia. In just a few short hours, our dedicated volunteers packed 1,008 boxes of food which translates into 20,160 pounds of food and 16,800 meals for those in need.

The other half of our volunteers worked at Wesley Community Centers of Savannah whose mission is to enhance the economic, educational, and spiritual growth, through excellence in early learning care.
and services, for women, children, and families. Our volunteers spent the morning working on:

- Weeding and mulching the garden
- Raking leaves
- Sanitizing toys
- Organizing the food pantry
- Organizing items stored in the Family Life Center attic

In response to the amazing work these organizations do to help their communities on a daily basis, we were also pleased to add our support in the form of $1,000 donations, presented to them as part of the 2020 DRI Awards of Excellence Gala on Mar. 3.

Over the years, friendships have formed and a great deal of good has been built from volunteerism through the DRI Foundation. We could not be more proud of the work we have done and the people who have come out to support our mission.
Ways to Give

Help us fulfill our mission to give back and move forward

There are many ways to support the DRI Foundation’s vision.

Visit foundation.drii.org to:

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**Get Involved**
- Partnership and affiliates:
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- Volunteer: Want to volunteer?
  - Email Maria Loduca mloduca@driii.org.
- Ask for volunteers: Need our volunteers to help out at your nonprofit?
  - Email Maria Loduca mloduca@driii.org.

Have a question or an idea?
Talk to us: *(646) 619-3599* or [getinvolved@driif.org](mailto:getinvolved@driif.org)
A DRI Foundation volunteer paints the exterior of Wesley Community Centers of Savannah. About 20 volunteers spent the day working at the center during Volunteer Day at DRI2020.
The DRI Foundation thanks the individuals, companies, and organizations whose generous donations supported our efforts July 2019–June 2020.

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