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Disaster Recovery International Foundation **Annual Review 2022-2023**

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Table of Contents

Mission	4
Message from the President	5
Global Giving Map	6
Accomplishments	
Key Achievements	8
Ukraine Children's Healing Arts Program	10
Tri-State Canine Response Team	14
Alpha Team K9 Search and Rescue	15
ViequesLove	16
Veterans Outreach Program	18
Women's Business Continuity Management	20
2023 College Scholarships	22
Generous Supporters	24
Ways to Give	26
Leadership	26



Message from the President



The DRI Foundation's mission is to provide financial, educational and volunteer aid to those who have been impacted by disasters. It also seeks to provide help to those who wish to enter the field of resiliency by providing free training, certification, and job placement. The result is that we have changed lives.



It is hard to believe that the DRI Foundation is entering its twelfth year. We started with a very simple goal of providing local relief to areas and people who were affected by disasters of all varieties but underserved by larger relief organizations. We responded to natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, and freezing weather). We provided aid to those in war-ravaged regions. Our efforts were forced to expand. During this pandemic we helped fund and supported food bank distribution to those who would not have survived on their own. We funded the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment to medical facilities to safeguard those healthcare workers who defined the term "dedication." Our efforts have been felt on six continents.

The DRI Foundation outreach efforts to train, certify and help find jobs for individuals who could not otherwise have the means and guidance to seek career changes, has brought new individuals into the resilience professions. Thus, helping them find new careers and changing their professional and personal lives. As an all-volunteer organization, the DRI Foundation is always in need of help to continue our efforts. So, your support in volunteering and/or funding these efforts is vital to our meeting our goals.

Our goal is to continue funding recovery, training, volunteer and support group efforts. This year we provided funding to over 1,000 veterans (as part of the Veterans Outreach Program), to over 800 members of Women in Business Continuity Management (WBCM), the largest membership group in Business Continuity, to numerous relief efforts, and to academic scholarships—all at no cost to recipients.

We are participating in a special project to help the children of Ukraine. The DRI Foundation is partnering with World Cares Center which conducts desperately needed healing workshops with children and families in resettlement villages in L'viv Ukraine in concert with mobile medical clinics. We provided 250 backpacks filled with activities and basic necessities—thanks in part to a generous donation from Walmart that help stimulate the children and relieve the tedium that faces these children on a daily basis. We invited our guests at the DRI2023 Awards of Excellence to express their thoughts and provide words of encouragement on greeting cards to be included in the backpacks. The responses were overwhelming. Many cards were in English; however, others drew pictures and even translated their message to Ukrainian for the children to enjoy and cherish.

We ask that you join us in this effort. If you would like to donate goods or funds to help us, please send me a note at aberman@drii.org.

Your support is appreciated so that we may continue this good work globally.

Sincerely,

Al Berman
President, DRI Foundation

Global Giving Map



Key Achievements



\$80,000+ raised total for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



94 veterans awarded scholarships for training, valued at

\$282,000



Two \$5,000 college scholarships to children of DRI **Certified Professionals**



\$50,000+ given to disaster relief, rebuilding, and resilience efforts throughout the world



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



194 mentors/ mentees paired -

97 pairs of women in business continuity connected via our mentorship program



38 including DRI Certified Professionals, attended the Sisters Encourage Empower Developing Success(SEEDS) forum with non-profit partner, Dress For Success™ Austin



"The DRI Foundation has helped change the lives of veterans and women by offering scholarships for education, certification and job placement for over 1,000 new professionals."

Ukraine Children's Healing Arts Program

As the war in Ukraine continues, its physical and emotional tolls are impacting its most vulnerable populations. To alleviate suffering, the DRI Foundation is proud to provide support to organizations like World Cares Center.



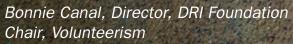






"The war in Ukraine has upended the lives of countless citizens in a startlingly short amount of time," said Al Berman, DRI Foundation President. "As a force for resilience around the world, the DRI Foundation feels a profound responsibility to help the refugees created from this conflict, particularly the children, in any way that we can."

"Volunteering offers us the opportunity to step outside ourselves and share who we are with others. Volunteers around the world are dedicated to helping shape our tomorrow."















"On behalf of World Cares
Center, our Ukraine team and
the survivors in the refugee
camps that we will be revisiting,
thank you," said World Cares
Center Founder and President
Lisa Orloff in a message to the
DRI Foundation.



Tri-State Canine Response Team

Uvalde shooting: Therapy dogs provide comfort to community

On May 24, 2022, the second largest mass shooting at a school occurred at Robb Elementary, in Uvalde, TX, where 19 students and two teachers were killed and 17 others injured. Under orders, Tri-State Canine Response Team deployed three handlers, three crisis response dogs, one interpreter, and two crisis counselors. Teams worked with families affected by the shooting and conducted in-home visits with students afraid to come out of their homes, as well as with first responders who tragically had contact with the scene and with survivors.

With another invitation from a school counselor from Robb Elementary, the Tri-State Canine Response Team returned to Uvalde on May 24, 2023 to mark the one-year anniversary of the tragic mass shooting. The DRI Foundation funded deployment. The Response Team was privileged to comfort and support a grieving community, including first responders, teachers, fire companies, dispatch officers, Incident Command Center, OEM, EMS, and hospital staff many of whom they met the previous year. The team was integral to community-led support events, including butterfly releases, art projects, and participated in community vigils and memorials, attended services, and, most importantly, supported students and their families.

The DRI Foundation is proud to support such nonprofit organizations building resilience in communities.









Alpha Team K9 Search and Rescue

Search and rescue group gets DRI Foundation funding, gives an exciting demonstration

The DRI Foundation is a proud supporter of organizations around the world that help create resilient and safe communities. For this reason, it provided grant funding for Alpha Team K9 Search and Rescue, a training organization based in Atlanta, GA.

Alpha Team K9 provides certified volunteers and canines in support of law enforcement and emergency management search and rescue operations. It responds to all types of lost or missing person searches when requested by law enforcement and emergency management agencies, ranging from missing children to wandering dementia patients to GBI crime scenes for recent or aged human remains detection.

One of ATK9's supporters, who helped put the organization on the Foundation's radar, is Diana M. Leonard, Business Continuity Program Manager for Republic Airways. She recently visited the site and sent us the details of her experience there: "I was so impressed with the work that they do and this training day gave me an opportunity to see it in action. I went on search missions and was actually able to hide and be found on one of dogs! The first mission I was on was searching for a known missing person, (simulating a missing Alzheimer's patient or missing child) where an article of clothing was introduced to the dog and the dog was given the command to 'find.'

The handler and her dog, Boogie, followed the scent through piles of leaves, puddles of water...following the scent. We walked close to three quarters of a mile down multiple streets and yards, and eventually found the missing person!

"The team uses a GPS application on their phones that allows them to track the person who is 'missing' and then track the team searching to see how efficient the dog was at finding the person. This can be challenging based on traffic, weather, surroundings and crowds of people but this dog deviated a bit from the initial track taken by the missing person because of wind direction, etc., and it actually shortened the time to finding them. We also did multiple missions where the dog would search for human remains, (yes - the team does have human remains they use for training) which was in a plastic bag and then in a box. They then hid this box under multiple layers of pine tree branches. The dog – who is specifically trained for searching for human remains – easily detected the box despite it being buried."

The DRI Foundation is proud to provide support and vital financial assistance to such non-profit organizations, to aid their missions in communities where they are needed.



Disaster Recovery International Foundation, Inc. Annual Review 2022-2023



ViequesLove

DRI certified professional reports on resilience efforts from grant recipients in Puerto rico

After damages by Hurricane Fiona in Sept. 2022, Yaritza Rodriguez, CBCP, Risk Manager for Amgen, Ltd. requested a grant on behalf of ViequesLove, formed in the wake of Hurricane Maria in 2017. It partners with community groups and local government to build resilience and sustainability for Vieques.

In December 2022, Rodriguez had the opportunity to visit Vieques and learn more about what the organization developed after the disasters. She met with Kelly Thompson, Founder/Director of Marketing and Donor Relations, as well as other members of the ViequesLove team. There are several ongoing projects.

The Asset Mapping Project plays a crucial role in preparedness, emergency and recovery efforts by identifying critical needs, locating and tracking critical resources (including equipment, supplies, and service providers), acquiring contact information from suppliers, responders, business, and equipment owners, continuously analyzing and managing the sufficiency of the resources against the needs of the island.

Currently, they are developing the online Asset Mapping system to survey and map critical emergency related resources of NGOs, churches, agencies, schools, businesses, and key individuals (on or off testing area and contact tracing process was established by ViequesLove, and later continued by the municipality. Also, they supported emergency response teams in vaccination efforts resulting in a 90% vaccination on the entire island. ViequesLove has made efforts that include advocacy for reinforcing the island's infrastructure and organizational capacity to strengthen the community's self-reliance. HAM radios and satellite antennas have been included thus, enhancing communication during disaster events.

ViequesLove is partnering with emergency response agencies, government officials and business continuity subject matter experts. The organization intends to continue educating the population so that preparedness efforts continue. Mark Martin Bras, Founder, Director of Disaster Preparedness & Response plays an important role in protecting and preserving the ecological environment of Vieques as well as educating the youth through his daily work and Manta programs at Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust.

ViequesLove was founded after Hurricane Maria in 2017. Their recent response to Hurricane Fiona in 2022 proved that their efforts paid off. During Fiona, Vieques was left in the dark and the main communication system was the Emergency Radio Network. ViequesLove funded the radio network which now connects the island not only to north to south but by HAM radio to all the world.

The DRI Foundation is proud to provide support and vital financial assistance to such non-profit organizations, to aid their missions in communities where they are needed. For more information on requesting assistance, <u>click here</u>.





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Veterans Outreach Program

Provides free training and career counseling for recently or near term separated military members

<u>Veterans Outreach Program (VOP)</u> helps veterans realize their dreams and to help themselves, their families, and their respective organizations achieve great success as they transition into the professions of emergency response, crisis management, business continuity, and disaster recovery.

The VOP's focus is to establish an industry-first "giving-back" scholarship program. This year the VOP awarded its 1000th scholarship since its inception over six years ago. This program has provided job opportunities and eased the veteran transition to civilian life.

We also developed a mentoring program which forms a voluntary one-on-one relationship between a junior veteran employee and a senior veteran mentor working in the continuity and crisis career field. The mentorship program assists the veteran employee with their personal and professional growth in an organization and focuses on helping the veteran employee adjust to the civilian workplace culture while reaching their full potential within the organization.









"The scholarship opportunity for veterans is amazing and greatly appreciated. The course itself was great! It is an excellent course for those looking to expand beyond their current technical skillset and into an area applicable to almost any business scenario." — Norman H.

About the Scholarship

Each selected candidate will be offered a place in a Business Continuity (BCLE 2000) class in near proximity to their current location or remotely. The scholarship will entitle each selected candidate to attend a business continuity credentialing class, take the qualifying examination, and if they successfully pass the examination, complete the application to become certified.



Women in Business Continuity Management (WBCM)

Driven by its commitment to provide networking, mentorship, and scholarship opportunities for female practitioners.

Here's a look at some WBCM highlights from the past year.





20

The DRI Foundation named Robyn Kimbro, MBCP, as Vice Chair of WBCM's Executive Committee. "Robyn has consistently brought a wealth of industry knowledge and real-world experience to WBCM's

Executive Committee," said WBCM Committee Chair Mitzi Harlor, CBCP and Director of the Business Continuity Office for Marriott International.

"In her new leadership role as Vice Chair, her honest feedback, big picture thinking, practical approach, and incredible sense of humor will continue to positively shape our organization's strategic vision and mission." Robyn Kimbro joined Walmart's Global Emergency Management organization in 2019 as Sr. Manager, Enterprise Business Continuity. She is responsible for enterprise business continuity program governance and strategic direction, business continuity risk management, program metrics and reporting, and provides guidance and support to business continuity managers in the planning and maintenance of Walmart's global business continuity programs. Kimbro also supports Walmart's global emergency operations center in crisis response efforts for Walmart's most critical business areas across the globe.

She holds DRI's Master Business Continuity
Professional (MBCP) designation, a Certified Cyber
Resilience Professional (CCRP) designation, and
has been a member DRI International Certified
Professional since 2005.

Women in BCM Committee Presents First Mentor of the Year Award to Marsha Buehler



The DRI Foundation's
Women in Business
Continuity Management
(WBCM) Committee is
proud to present its first
Mentor of the Year Award
to WBCM Executive
Committee member

Marsha Buehler, MBCP and VP of Business Resiliency Management and Oversight Management for JP Morgan Chase.

"From establishing WBCM's mentorship program to coaching up to five mentees at once, there are few more deserving than Marsha to be recognized with this award," said WBCM Committee Chair Mitzi Harlor, CBCP and Director of the Business Continuity Office for Marriott International. "She is a true champion, role model, and advisor to the women she mentors." Buehler has diverse experience in financial, telecommunications, and legal industries.

She has 26 years in IT project management and 11 years in business continuity with expertise in establishing and maintaining business continuity/ resiliency programs. Throughout her career, she has had roles spanning resilience, IT, cyber security, awareness training, marketing, and telecommunications management. She is well-versed in managing software implementations and complex IT projects to enhance and automate business resilience systems and programs.

"Without Marsha's listening ear and encouragement, I am not sure I would have been confident enough to take the leap and I am so glad I did. She is an amazing mentor, and I am so lucky that our paths crossed."

Mentee Chanda Hankins

WBCM kicks off DRI2023 Conference Track by Volunteering with Dress for Success™ Austin

Dress For SuccessTM empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

WBCM volunteers had the privilege of meeting

Dress For SuccessTM Austin participants to share stories and experiences about personal and professional resilience. WBCM also collected toiletries from generous conference attendees to re-stock in-need supplies.



21

2023 College Scholarships

Undergrad Scholarship Winner Embraces Space, STEM, and Climate Risk Education

Ayana De Silva

While DRI Foundation Scholarship winner Ayana De Silva has focused much of her attention on environmental issues, she's also keeping her eyes on the stars. A Junior at Western Ontario University in London, Ontario, De Silva is active with collegiate organizations including Women in STEM, which provides career development opportunities for students in the science, tech, engineering, and mathematics fields, as well as the Change Club, which performs charity and fundraising work. She was also recently elected president of the university's chapter of the Space Society of London.

"I've always been interested in space, ever since I was young," Ayana said. "My dad introduced me to Neil deGrasse Tyson talks, and we used to watch those videos on YouTube together. When I came to university in my first year, I was at the club fair, and I saw the Space Society's booth. They had a telescope set up, which I've been able to use for the summer – my dad and I have been using it to look at the moon."

It was her mother, Roshni De Silva, ABCP, who encouraged Ayana to apply for the DRI Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship, and taught her more about the business continuity profession in the process. "I definitely used my mom as a resource, because before I didn't really have a background in business continuity," she said. "I did know that it was kind of like disaster relief and recovery, that type of thing. But I didn't know the amount of thought and effort that gets put into resilience – it's such a big field, especially how it overlaps with other parts of business, the economy, things like that."

For college undergraduates, this year's Foundation Scholarship essay prompt asked applicants to consider

the biggest risk threatening the world and how they would address it. Ayana decided to focus on the increasing disasters brought on by climate change. Rather than think about grassroots approaches, she wrote about larger, systemic responses to educate the public and mitigate further damage.

"I have a background in writing about climate change and environmental science, so I was drawn to the topic of natural disasters, but I wanted to look at the bigger picture of what caused the rise in the prevalence of natural disasters," Ayana said. "I thought that talking about climate change was a big issue that a lot of people wouldn't necessarily choose to write an essay about it, just because of the enormity of it and how many different nuances there are."

It was Roshni who received the call that Ayana had won the scholarship, though like many in this day and age, she almost ignored the call from an unfamiliar phone number. "My mom got the call and said that since it was an out-of-country number, she almost wasn't going to answer it," Ayana said. "But she took a chance and it was [DRI President] Al Berman on the line, so she was downstairs on the phone with him when I came down, and she looked at me with a big smile on her face, and then I kind of knew!"

In the fall, Ayana will return to Western Ontario University, continuing her undergraduate education in Medical Sciences, with a specialization in microbiology and immunology, along with a major in pharmacology. After that, "It'll pretty much be more school – grad school is what I'm aiming for, and then medical school is probably the next step."

Click here to read Ayana's award-winning essay.

Early Experiences and Chilly Environments Shape HS Scholarship Winner's Sense of Preparedness

Abby Jeffers

Abby Jeffers' connection to resilience began at a very young age – in fact, right from the start. "When I was an infant, my family lost power and was unable to keep my milk cold," she wrote in her DRI Foundation Scholarship-winning essay.

"Luckily, my parents were able to think on their feet and buy some bagged ice to preserve it. But knowing what I know now, I wanted to empower families in my community – especially those with young children – to understand how to be ready for an outage based on their specific needs."

This early experience, coupled with dinner table discussions with her father, Matthew Jeffers, CBCP, helped develop an interest in preparedness, particularly concerning environmental resources. She learned much on the subject by taking a big role in a wastewater project with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

For high school seniors, the Foundation Scholarship essay prompt was, "Please provide your thoughts on how you could affect preparedness in your community." Abby chose to focus on power outages, "Because they were, in my view, one of the most universal things that can happen pretty much anywhere. Also, they were one of the ones that I had the most experience with," as a resident of upstate New York, having to prepare each winter for the impacts of extreme cold and snow storms.

But it was an event far from home that also led her to choose the topic. "As I was doing my research, I was very surprised about the recent winter outages in Texas because, obviously I'm from New York, so a lot of my experience with outages has mostly been from wind or snow storms," she said. "So, to hear that Texas could have an outage with so much damage from an ice storm was surprising."

As a resilience professional, her father also saw lessons in the unusual weather event. "An ice storm in

Texas, if you go back to business continuity, is kind of surprise," Matthew said. "Part of Abby's essay was how we're so used to these things; it becomes second nature. We prepare for them because we're used to them as opposed to preparing for them because maybe they're more impactful – in the Northeast, we can deal without air conditioning, but not heat. And in Texas, you can deal with without heat, but not air conditioning."

Matthew was first to hear the news of the scholarship from DRI Foundation President AI Berman, and told Abby when she got home from school, much to her shock. "I wasn't necessarily sure how good of a chance I had of winning," she said. "So, I was surprised, but definitely super grateful."

Next up for Abby is her freshman year at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY, where she plans to major in environmental engineering. In addition to her experience with the Department of Environmental Conservation, another experience helped shaped her interest, one common to students her age: living through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The DRI Foundation wishes her the best of luck in the coming school year!

Click here to read Abby's award-winning essay.



Giving Back





Our Generous Supporters

We are grateful to the certified professionals, friends, and supporters who are committed to giving back and helping others move forward. This annual review is dedicated to you for supporting our mission to provide aid to those who have been impacted by disasters as well as training and employment to those who have specific needs to create a more prepared and resilient world.

With deep appreciation, we acknowledge the generosity of our donors for gifts made between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

\$5000 - \$9999

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Giving Back Moving Forward

The Foundation provides help to those in need: survivors of disaster, veterans and women seeking to find a career in resilience, students, certified professionals seeking to give back to the community by volunteering, and all those seeking to create a more resilient world.

DONATE



Ways to Give

There are many ways to support the DRI Foundation's vision. Visit our website to:

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