

Markel's 2020 corporate giving

Giving back in the year of COVID-19



Markel increased its historic levels of community giving throughout 2020. By living the Markel Style of being flexible and striving for a better way, the company adjusted its philanthropic actions and discovered new opportunities to reach and support important organizations and causes within its communities.

In 2020, Markel donated \$4.5 million to 750 charitable organizations. The total includes \$3.0 million given through company donations and \$1.5 million given through Markel's Matching Gifts program for employees in the US and Bermuda.

“Giving back is important at Markel. Our leadership and employees recognize even a small gesture of goodwill can make a lasting, positive impact,” said Mary Allen Waller, Markel's Global Director of Community Engagement. “By following the Markel Style of sharing success with others, we continued ‘winning together’ in the communities in which our people live and work.”

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

As part of its commitment to helping local communities, Markel targeted a significant amount of its charitable giving in 2020 to help with COVID-19 recovery and relief. Our corporate donations included giving:

- \$200,000 to ChildSavers for remote mental health therapy during the pandemic.
- \$100,000 to the Community Foundation for COVID relief to small businesses in Richmond, Virginia.
- \$88,390 to Feeding America through Markel's Online Brokers Campaign for food access.
- \$65,000 for food access relief in April 2020 to food pantries in New York, Omaha, Chicago, and Dallas.
- \$20,000 to support remote learning pods and supplies for the Glen Allen Cultural Arts, the YMCA, and the students of Richmond Public Schools (The Virginia Commonwealth University alumni association raised money and distributed supplies to the Richmond students.)

When the company canceled its annual December holiday celebrations worldwide, it contributed the nearly quarter of a million dollars budgeted for these events to several organizations, including Ronald McDonald House and the National Alliance of Mental Illness.

Additionally, the company kept its sponsorship commitments to any canceled non-profit fundraising events in 2020. Non-profit organizations were allowed to keep sponsorship donations even if their fundraising events were canceled. In addition, Markel continued to cover 20% of the operating costs for Partnership for the Future, a non-profit organization created by Markel's

Chairman Emeritus, Alan Kirshner. Partnership for the Future helps Richmond, Virginia-area high school students with limited resources prepare for college and professional success.

Supporting racial and social equity

Racial and social inequality became an important topic in 2020. National and international movements to address racism and social injustices led to conversations among the company's leadership and employees about what Markel can do to promote and support racial and social equity.

One outcome from the conversations was the October 2020 launch of the Markel Racial Justice Fundraising Campaign. The campaign aimed to increase racial equity. Employees were given the opportunity to receive an automatic Markel match for donations to the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Equal Justice Initiative, and the National Urban League. Approximately 110 employees participated in the campaign, helping raise more than \$60,000 in donations and gift matching.



Putting philanthropy in the hands of our employees

In 2020, Markel introduced another way for its employees to be involved in giving back to their communities with the creation of Grant Review Committees. This was piloted in four Markel offices: Richmond, Virginia; Bedford, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; and Hamilton, Bermuda. The Grant Review Committees focused on three general areas for corporate giving: community needs, individual needs, and environmental resiliency. Employees in these locations completed a location-specific survey and selected the top five types of non-profit, charitable organizations they would like Markel to support. Markel utilized the recommendations of the initial Grant Review Committees for making the majority of company donations in 2020.

As the Markel Style states, “We have the ability to make decisions or alter a course quickly.”

The events of 2020 gave Markel the chance to showcase the company's flexibility and resilience by keeping its financial commitments to non-profit organizations and empowering its employees to get involved with philanthropy.

