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IICF Spotlight: Building Futures at St. Giles

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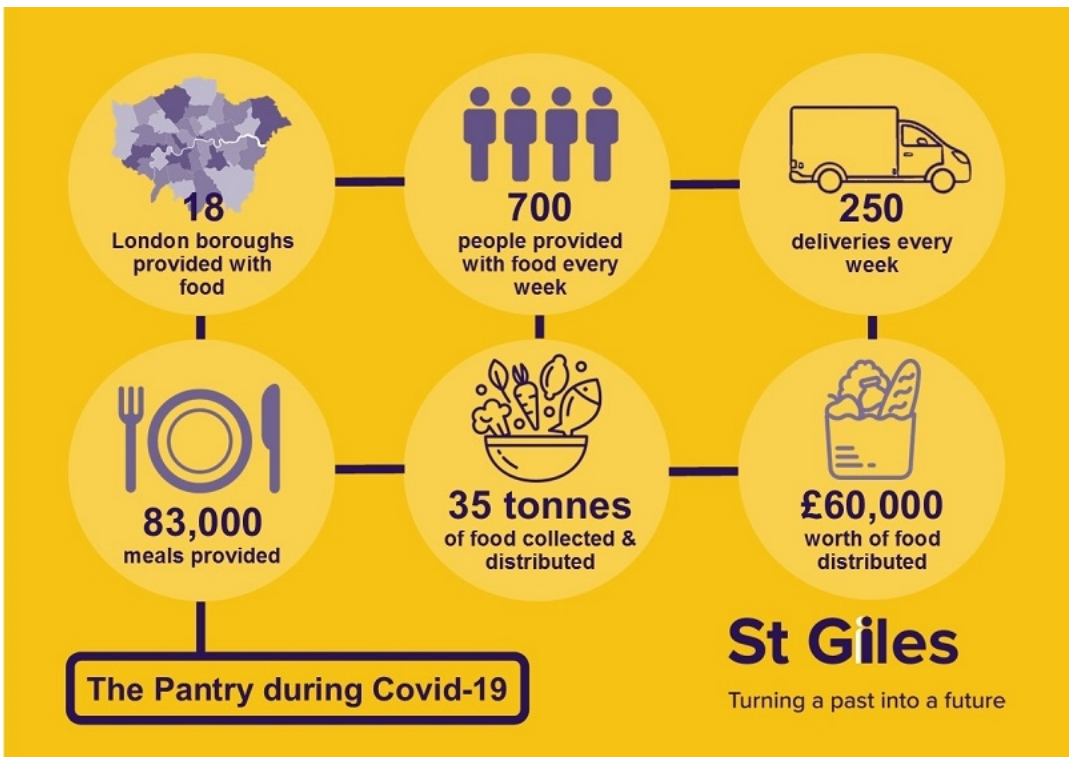


Editor's note: *As the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) continues its Week of Giving, Reactions puts an editorial spotlight on the individuals helped and the lives changed through the organization's work.*

This week, five nonprofit organizations with which IICF has partnered share the tremendous impact IICF's volunteer support and community grant funding, made possible by the insurance industry, has had on their communities over the years. Today's installment features a testimonial by Tsjanneke Hawkins-van der Cingel, Corporate Partnerships Manager for St. Giles.

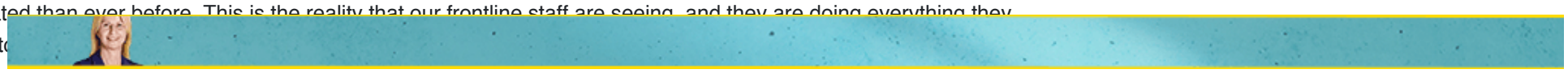
Building Futures at St. Giles

By Tsjanneke Hawkins-van der Cingel, Corporate Partnerships Manager, St. Giles

St. Giles is an award-winning charity using expertise and lived experiences to empower people who are not getting the help they need, held back by poverty, exploited, abused, dealing with mental health problems, caught up in crime or a combination of these issues.

At St. Giles, we believe people have the power to turn their lives around, regardless of their situations. Many of our employees have been in the same circumstances and use their experiences to inspire and support those living through it right now. Being helped by someone who has "been there" is powerful and underpins all of our projects.

The crisis caused by COVID-19 is impacting on all of our lives. For St. Giles' clients this impact has been catastrophic. Those who were already struggling to provide food for their families no longer have access to food; those who were already on the breadline have no safety net; those who are on the periphery of society are more isolated than ever before. This is the reality that our frontline staff are seeing, and they are doing everything they can t



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The support of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) and its grants has been immeasurable during lockdown. Grants received from the IICF have allowed St. Giles to greatly limit the pressures that the most vulnerable people are facing by enabling them to provide healthy and nutritious food parcels across 18 London boroughs, feeding over 700 people every week and providing over 83,000 meals during lockdown.

In addition to providing grants, IICF Associate Board members have volunteered at our food pantry in South London, providing much needed support for our clients.

With help from IICF and organizations like it, we are able to help our families and clients not only survive during this crisis but have weekly access to basic nutritious food. Unlike a food bank, our highly empowering model focuses on fresh and healthy food, ensuring that regardless of circumstances people can prioritize health and nutrition.

IICF's Week of Giving helps to shine a light on organizations like St. Giles. The celebration of yearlong giving helps to rally support for community nonprofits across the UK and in the US and inspire charitable giving and volunteerism. Uniting the collective strength of the insurance industry, IICF has contributed more $40 million to local nonprofits like ours and we are grateful for these efforts.

Much like IICF, we are working to improve the future. Part of our vision is to support people to turn their pasts into positive futures. With partners like IICF, who are working diligently to provide support even in times of crisis, St. Giles and other organizations like us can continue to focus on the good work we are doing and the bright futures of our clients.

For those interested in learning more about giving back in your community, please visit www.IICF.org.

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We're excited to have a Macro Outlook to start our NA Asset Mgmt Week today presented by Thomas Holzheu, Chief Economist Americas, @SwissRe and Malie Conway, Head of U.S. Distribution @Allianz_es Allianz Global Investors: assetmanagement2020.reactionsnet.com

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