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Disaster Technology Nonprofit Recognizes Supporters of Critical Communications Efforts

Information Technology Disaster Resource Center Recognizes Leading Technology Partners and Individuals with 2018 Annual Awards

DALLAS – April 29, 2019 - The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC), a volunteer-driven non-profit organization that connects communities in crisis, today announced the recipients of the 2018 *Critical Communications Support Awards* to recognize members and partners that went above-and-beyond to support ITDRC's mission.

In 2018 ITDRC provided mobile networks and technical resources to more than 156 new sites in 140 different communities after major hurricanes and fire disasters that affected large parts of California and the Southeast U.S. The efforts were in addition to ongoing recovery efforts from previous events including Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, which devastated the island of Puerto Rico.

The 2018 *Critical Communications Support Awards* took place during ITDRC's annual leadership conference and inaugural *Tech Task Force* training event in the San Francisco Bay Area. The first ever award for "**Outstanding Individual Partner**" was given to Dan Rabinovitsj for his executive sponsor support of ITDRC during his time as CEO of Ruckus Wireless and his continued support as vice president of Facebook Connectivity.

"*I'm honored by the recognition from ITDRC and its volunteers*," said Dan Rabinovitsj. "*Connecting people during a time of crisis is of the outmost importance for us all and I'm grateful that the support provided by me and my teams are making a difference.*"

Additionally, USMC Veteran and ITDRC Region 4 volunteer, DA Kouns was recognized with a **Distinguished Service award** for his continued service in Puerto Rico's hurricane recovery, and volunteer members Al Benson, Chris Kinsler, Chris Taylor, Dustin Li, Jonathan Boyle, Mari Leon, Peg Kirby, and Roger Rustad received "**Outstanding Service" awards**.

The following companies were also recognized for their outstanding contributions of products and services, employee volunteers and monetary support: Amazon Web Services (AWS) Disaster Response, Cisco/Meraki, Dell, DISH, Google, HP, Microsoft, Ruckus Wireless, Sprint ERT, Tierpoint, TOURtech and Advanced Shelter Systems.

"*Without the generous support of these partners, ITDRC would not have made nearly the impact we did in those 140 communities last year,*" said Joe Hillis, operations director for ITDRC. "*Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers and partners, we were able to provide assistance when and where it was needed most.*"

Founded in 2008, ITDRC deploys volunteer tech teams and resources to impacted communities after catastrophic events to provide emergency lifelines to responders and survivors. Services such as temporary voice and network connectivity, phone lines, satellite communications and hardware including Wi-Fi access points, computers, printers, radios, telephones and power systems are donated by ITDRC sponsor companies and installed and maintained by ITDRC volunteers. In addition, ITDRC provides damage assessment imagery for emergency management agencies and communications support for non-government organizations.

You Can Help
The organization is always in need of cellular and satellite services, wireless and network hardware, notebooks, phones, and cabling; as well as vehicles and technical volunteers. To volunteer, sponsor, or learn more, visit www.itdrc.org.

About ITDRC
The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center is a nationwide, volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) with more than 1,500 technical professionals throughout the US and its territories. Each year ITDRC volunteers and its *Tech Task Force* partners connect thousands of disaster survivors and responders in their greatest times of need. It also provides extended support to communities during long term recovery. ITDRC is a charter member of FEMA's Tech Sector Collaboration program, and trusted partner to the technology and emergency management communities. Nationwide Disaster Response 866.217.5777.

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