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Horace Mann recognized for sustainability efforts

September 15, 2022



Horace Mann has received the Outstanding Leadership in Sustainability Gold Level award for its sustainability efforts at its headquarters in Springfield, Ill.

Horace Mann achieved Gold Level status due to its sustainable practices in the areas of energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation, green products/services, vehicle emissions, renewable energy and biodiversity. Horace Mann has reduced its Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions by more than one-third in two years. The company has pledged to cut carbon emissions in half by 2030 and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

“Horace Mann is a company with a clear understanding of the major impact of climate change on the well-being of our planet,” said Harv Koplo, treasurer of the Sustainable Springfield nonprofit. “This company has replaced all of the windows with double-paned insulated glass, installed more water efficient fixtures throughout its headquarters, incorporated native plants into its landscaping to attract butterflies and pollinators, and included electric charging stations in its employee parking lot.”

“Horace Mann is committed to protecting the environment through the implementation of sustainability best practices,” said Don Carley, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Horace Mann.

“We understand the importance of doing our part to contribute to a larger environmental benefit and keep our communities great places to live and work.”

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‘Cool new desks’ help classroom move forward after hurricane

September 8, 2022



After Hurricane Ida tore through Louisiana last year, educators were faced not only with damage to their homes, but to their classrooms as well.

At South Larose Elementary School in Lafourche Parish, classroom materials were destroyed and desks severely damaged. Bless Your Heart, a local nonprofit, wanted to help classrooms return to normal – or even get an upgrade.

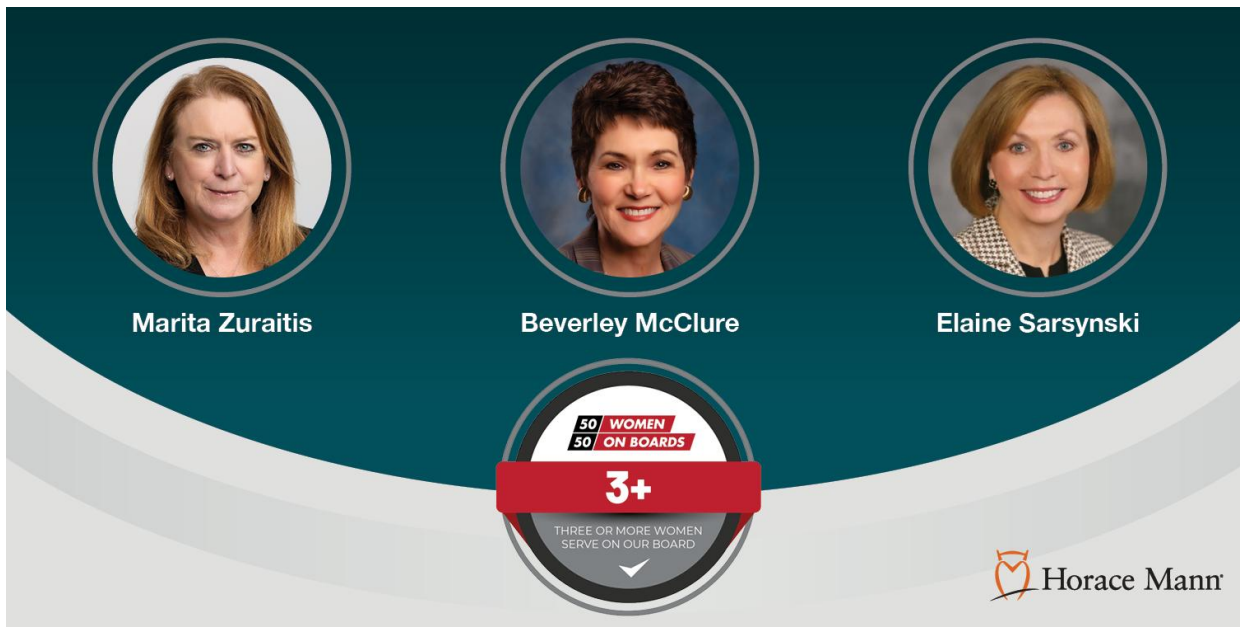
“We are striving to return their learning experience to the level they deserve,” said board member Luke Newman.

With the help of the Horace Mann Educators Foundation, Bless Your Heart purchased 32 dry-erase tabletop stations for Larose Elementary. Students can use the desks to work through math problems or brainstorm ideas, and can put the stations together for larger projects.

“Using the collaborative desk allows students to do something they have always been fussed for -- writing on a desk!” said Principal Dana Gros. “Having these cool, new desks brought more joy than I can even express in words.”

Horace Mann recognized for its board diversity

June 21, 2022



[50/50 Women on Boards](#) has recognized Horace Mann as a “3+” company for having three or more women on its [Board of Directors](#): Marita Zuraitis, President and Chief Executive Officer of Horace Mann Educators Corporation; Beverley McClure, retired Senior Vice President of Enterprise Operations for United Services Automobile Association (USAA); and Elaine Sarsynski, retired Chairwoman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mass Mutual International.

“Horace Mann believes a diverse board is important to best reflect the diversity of the company’s employees, customers and shareholders,” said McClure, chair of the board’s Nominating and Governance Committee. “We carefully consider each board member’s background to provide a board diverse in experience, skill sets, age, ethnicity and gender makeup to bring a variety of perspectives to the table.”

“Investors and enlightened leaders continue to make institutional decisions that reinforce the business advantages of diverse boards,” said Betsy Berkhemer-Credaire, CEO of 50/50 Women on Boards. “We are pleased to recognize Horace Mann for prioritizing this business decision that benefits its shareholders, employees, customers, and communities.”

Springfield community comes together to help remote learners, working families

June 16, 2022

Springfield (Ill.) Public Schools went fully remote for most of the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. This created problems for working families with young school-age children. With a grant from Horace Mann Educators Corporation and Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, four community organizations (Central Illinois Boys and Girls Clubs, Compass for Kids, The Matthew Project and the Springfield Urban League) were able to expand their remote learning support to offer services to more than 500 students during the height of the pandemic.

Horace Mann recognizes Juneteenth

June 13, 2022



Horace Mann is recognizing Juneteenth as a paid company holiday for the first time in 2022, as well as continuing to support Juneteenth events in its communities.

This includes celebrations in Springfield, Ill.; Dallas; Raleigh, N.C; Madison, Wisc.; and Cherry Hill, N.J. The company is also hosting a virtual session on the history of Juneteenth for interested employees.

Juneteenth commemorates the events of June 19, 1865, the day the last enslaved people in the United States were told of their emancipation — two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect.

“Creating a more inclusive culture includes recognizing and respecting differences in lived experiences,” CHRO Jenny Thayer said in a message to all employees. “Horace Mann is proud to support our Black employees by recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday to allow people to mark the occasion however they choose.”

Horace Mann honors outstanding educators

May 6, 2022



Jill Borah, left, receives the 2022 Horace Mann Educator of the Year award from Springfield Schools Superintendent Jennifer Gill, right, at a celebration at Grant Middle School this week.

In her 18 years as a math teacher at Grant Middle School in Springfield, Ill., Jill Borah has helped thousands of students gain “number sense.” But just as important to many of her students is her empathy and commitment to helping them reach their highest goals.

“Jill is able to see exactly what each child brings to the Grant community, and her whole teaching approach involves finding and using children’s unique strengths to help them overcome their struggles and develop a positive self-concept,” according to a colleague. “In many ways, she works as a social worker as well as a teacher.”

This week, which is Teacher Appreciation Week, Horace Mann and Springfield Public Schools honored Borah with the [2022 Horace Mann Educator of the Year award](#). Horace Mann has sponsored the program in its headquarters location for the past 35 years.

Also honored this week were:

- Ken Gilmore, Ridgely Elementary School Principal: 2022 Administrator of the Year
- Lindsey Dunbar, Iles School fifth grade teacher: Rising Star
- Marcy Hale, Lee School third grade teacher: Rising Star
- Dalton McGhiey, Lanphier High School science and health teacher: Rising Star

Recognizing exceptional school leadership

March 3, 2022



Sharon Contreras, image courtesy of AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Horace Mann and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, [recently recognized two women for their exceptional leadership in education.](#) The awards, given at the National Conference on Education in Nashville, Tennessee, pays tribute to the talent, creativity and vision of outstanding women educational administrators in the nation's public schools.

Horace Mann's Kelly Ruwe presented the awards to Sharon Contreras, Superintendent of Schools for the Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, North Carolina; and to Susan Field, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Services for Academy District 20 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Horace Mann has sponsored the AASA's Women in Leadership program for four years, recognizing the top candidates in the Superintendent and Central Office/Principal categories.

"AASA's Women in School Leadership Awards recognize outstanding leaders in public education who are driving positive change in our school districts and motivating academic achievement for our students," said Marita Zuraitis, President and CEO, Horace Mann. "These women have excelled while navigating a constantly changing landscape. At Horace Mann, we are committed to recognizing successful women leaders in education and assisting all educators to secure a strong financial future."

Horace Mann named to Bloomberg GEI Index for fourth consecutive year

January 26, 2022

Horace Mann is one of only 418 companies worldwide named to the [2022 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index](#), which recognizes corporate commitment to transparency in gender reporting and advancing women's equality. Horace Mann has been included in the index since its inception in 2019.

This is the [fourth consecutive year](#) Horace Mann has been named to the index, which measures gender equality across five pillars: female leadership and talent pipeline, equal pay and gender pay parity, inclusive culture, sexual harassment policies, and pro-women brand.

HMEF supports Madison, Wis., teachers

January 3, 2022

Every year, teachers spend hundreds of dollars of their own money to buy school supplies for their classrooms. In Madison, Wis., the average is about \$500 annually, according to the Madison Public Schools Foundation (MPSF).

To help alleviate this financial burden on educators, MPSF created the [Teacher Support Network](#), which provides each school in the Madison Metropolitan School District with a need-based budget, access to an online shopping portal, and fast delivery of high-quality supplies direct to schools from a local vendor. The Network's online shopping system went live in fall 2021, providing learning materials as varied as science kits, mental health resources, headphones and whiteboards to classrooms in need.

To celebrate Horace Mann becoming a part of the [Madison community](#), the Horace Mann Educators Foundation contributed \$20,000 to help replenish the Teacher Support Network budget for 2022.

"Through our Teacher Support Network, every school in the district has access to hundreds of traditional school and classroom supplies and we continue to add to the offerings, based on teacher and school feedback," said Foundation President Melinda Heinritz. "This meaningful gift will enable us to replenish the school budgets while also expanding our offerings to athletic and recess equipment, art supplies, and individually-packaged snacks."

Thomas A. Bradley joins Horace Mann Board of Directors

November 9, 2021

Horace Mann is pleased to announce the appointment of [Thomas A. Bradley](#) to its Board of Directors.

“Tom will be an incredibly valuable addition to our Board, especially as the company expands the ways it meets educator needs, such as the pending Madison National Life acquisition,” said Horace Mann Board Chair H. Wade Reece.

“Tom’s strong financial and governance expertise will be beneficial as Horace Mann continues to expand our business and further integrate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors into our operations,” said Horace Mann President and CEO Marita Zuraitis.

Bradley’s appointment is effective immediately. He will also serve as a member of the Board’s Audit Committee.



Horace Mann's Board of Directors expands Environmental Statement

June 1, 2021

Furthering Horace Mann's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship, last week the Board of Directors approved an expanded [Environmental Statement](#). The statement, which previously detailed Horace Mann's actions and policies around climate change, now also:

- Recognizes the importance of carbon neutrality;
- Specifies the company's processes for minimizing its environmental footprint; and
- Specifies personnel in charge of minimizing its environmental footprint.

The Board's initial Environmental Statement was approved in 2020.

Compass for Kids expands after-school program with Horace Mann grant

April 20, 2021

Compass for Kids, a nonprofit providing resources to support at-risk children in Springfield Public Schools, is crediting a grant from Horace Mann and First Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLB) with helping them lessen learning loss during the pandemic.

Executive Director Molly Berendt says the \$17,500 grant the organization received from Horace Mann and FHLB in fall 2020 helped them hire an Education Director and ensure their traditional after-school program, Club Compass, could transition to a virtual environment. This included purchasing additional Zoom licenses, web programs and SurveyMonkey, as well as books for each student to participate in a book club.

"The Horace Mann grant was critical to our ability to be adaptive, continually improving our Virtual Club Compass as the needs changed," said Berendt. "It has allowed us to expand and enhance our program, and really was monumental in making sure this year was as successful as possible in supporting students in many different ways."

Berendt said Virtual Club Compass focuses on social and emotional learning, something students weren't getting as much of during remote learning at school. At first, Club Compass made Thursday's book club optional, but they found kids were excited to join both.

"We were very worried that kids in school for five hours a day of remote learning wouldn't want to participate in a virtual program in their afternoons or evenings," said Berendt. "But our participation level, our attendance and engagement has been so much higher than we initially thought. It is a testament to the kids' desire for connection."

She said kids who were shy at the beginning of the school year and wouldn't look at the camera, raise their hand or answer questions are now doing all those things.

"We see them showing up on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a smile. They want to see their peers, they want to connect with the staff and our volunteers," she added. "What we've seen over the course of the school year is the kids feel like they have an additional place besides school where they do belong and have people that care about them. We've seen them grow and open up."

Horace Mann named to Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index for third consecutive year

January 27, 2021

Horace Mann is one of only 380 companies worldwide named to the [2021 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index](#), which recognizes corporate commitment to transparency in gender reporting and advancing women's equality.

This is the third consecutive year Horace Mann has been named to the index, which measures gender equality across five pillars: female leadership and talent pipeline, equal pay and gender pay parity, inclusive culture, sexual harassment policies, and pro-women brand.

Horace Mann CEO talks diversity in insurance industry

November 17, 2020

S&P Global Market Intelligence



Horace Mann CEO Marita Zuraitis was featured today in an S&P Global article on gender diversity in the insurance industry.

In the article "[Female insurance leaders work against odds to open doors for other women](#)," Zuraitis talks about her experience as one of only seven female CEOs in the U.S. insurance space.

"I want to be in a company where if I work hard, I'm going to have an equal opportunity to get ahead as the person sitting next to me," Zuraitis said. "As a female CEO of a company, I demand that environment."

Horace Mann Helps ‘Keep Kids Learning’ at Home

November 5, 2020



As thousands of teachers quickly switched to remote learning due to COVID-19, there was little time to prepare students for the change. Sixty-eight percent of educators told DonorsChoose their students lacked the resources they needed to learn from home.

To help educators in its communities provide remote learning resources, Horace Mann donated \$100,000 to the DonorsChoose Keep Kids Learning campaign. The donation helped more than 100 educators in central Illinois, the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the North Carolina Triangle provide learning supplies for students at home.

Springfield pre-K educator Janette Smith used the funds to create bags adorned with “I Miss You” stickers for her students with books, watercolors, Play-Doh, markers, flash cards and games.

“I was able to say, use your watercolors and paint me a picture, use your dry erase board and write your name,” she said. “And I will tell you, those kids got real creative with the stuff that I was able to give them.”

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

NEA Foundation names Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence winners

October 26, 2020



The NEA Foundation today announced the five winners of the 2021 Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence. Each winner will receive a prize of \$10,000, \$500 to spend on a DonorsChoose project of their choice, and a crystal owl from Horace Mann to commemorate their achievement.

The winners, chosen for their diligence and dedication to students, colleagues, community,

and their profession, are:

- Amy Galloway, high school social studies educator at West Valley High School in Fairbanks, Alaska
- Casey Keyser, third grade educator at Butterfly Ridge Elementary School in Frederick, Maryland
- Leila Kubesch, English as a second language and Spanish educator at Norwood Middle School in Norwood, Ohio
- Sara Medalen, elementary reading and math interventionist at Sunnyside Elementary School in Minot, North Dakota
- Takeru Nagayoshi, high school English educator at New Bedford High School in New Bedford, Massachusetts

The five educators will be honored in February at the virtual NEA Salute to Excellence in Education Awards Gala, where one of them will be named the 2021 NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence winner, which comes with an additional \$25,000 prize.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

Horace Mann to distribute \$100,000 to address Springfield educational equity gaps exacerbated by pandemic

October 1, 2020



Horace Mann, in partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, will provide more than \$100,000 to four Springfield organizations focused on closing student opportunity gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grants allow the organizations to assist nearly 500 additional low-to-moderate income families with targeted educational support, like providing safe remote learning spaces with reliable Internet access, additional learning opportunities for students falling behind, and basic needs like food and housing assistance for families.

One of the most pressing needs is safe, supervised remote learning sites for children with working parents, which several of the organizations will expand under the grants. Other programs include social and emotional learning programs and enrichment activities for at-risk students, assistance with basic needs for families, and support for parents taking a more active role in their child's learning.

Horace Mann's \$45,000 community donation was supported by an additional \$60,000 from FHLBank Chicago's Targeted Impact Fund. The [Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois](#) and the [Springfield Urban League](#) will each receive \$35,000, while [Compass for Kids](#) and [The Matthew Project](#) will each receive \$17,500.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

Horace Mann pilots wildfire certification program in California

April 1, 2020



The 2018 Camp Fire shocked California residents, first responders and insurance companies alike. Fueled by hot, dry gusts of wind, the fire burned 80 acres a minute at one point.

Once the fire was out, claims were settled and the rebuilding began, Horace Mann instituted a pilot “wildfire certification program” in the heavily wooded Paradise and Chico areas. An experienced Horace Mann loss control specialist visits insured homes — at no cost to the customer — to identify easily rectified risks, such as removing flammable pine needles, vegetation and firewood from the perimeter or roof of the home, using fire-resistant building materials on the roof and exterior walls, and installing vent screens to keep flying embers from entering the house.

“We can be proud that as a company, we’re doing everything in our power to prevent a house from burning down — and give people more time to get out safely,” said Matt Rubin, Horace Mann assistant vice president.