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INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP CELEBRATES THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUALS & CORPORATE PARTNERS WITH VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

IFEL Celebrates The Spirit Of Volunteerism And The Champions Who Help Entrepreneurs Survive & Thrive

NEWARK, NJ, December 13, 2021 — Approximately 63 million Americans — 25% of the adult population — volunteer for mission-driven causes, according to [Nonprofits Source](#), a consultancy for non-profit organizations. With the devastation of COVID-19 and continued fallout through the prolonged pandemic, volunteers are needed more than ever and are essential sources of support. The pandemic devastated small businesses in communities everywhere. Many are still experiencing unprecedented financial difficulties and logistical challenges. The [Institute For Entrepreneurial Leadership](#) (IFEL), a non-profit business consulting organization advocating for economic success through entrepreneurship, recently recognized individual volunteers & corporate partners whose time, talents & expertise have helped entrepreneurs to survive, recover and grow.

IFEL CEO Jill Johnson states, “These individuals and corporations have answered the call to help small businesses and entrepreneurs, many of whom have faced monumental barriers and difficulties. Their willingness to commit time and provide expertise has served as both a lifeline and springboard for small businesses while helping to open doors for those with the potential to grow and prosper.”

IFEL presented awards to the following companies and individuals involved with its Small Businesses Need Us Initiative: [Gibbons P.C.](#); [Santander Bank](#); Robert Johnson, Chief Diversity Officer, Partner, Corporate, Gibbons P.C.; and Sonia Huse, Impact Management Consultant.

IFEL created the [Small Businesses Need Us](#) initiative in 2020 to help businesses navigate the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization engages business professionals in skills-based volunteerism to provide high-touch, hands-on support to business owners. Volunteers work one-on-one with business owners during two-hour, virtual sessions to address the owner’s specific needs ranging from marketing to financial projections. The personalized interaction makes a significant impact on an entrepreneur’s ability to overcome some of their biggest business hurdles.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities or to sign up to volunteer, visit smallbusinessesneedus.org.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

Founded in 2002, the [Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership](https://www.weareifel.org) (IFEL) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that supports economic development through entrepreneurship. We are experts in creating and implementing small business programming in support of larger economic development objectives. Our mission is to eradicate the systemic barriers that prevent entrepreneurs of color from being able to access the knowledge, networks, and capital required for business success. Visit us at <https://www.weareifel.org>