



## *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **KNORR-BREMSE GLOBAL CARE NORTH AMERICA**

#### **MARKS FIVE YEARS OF GROWTH**

*Philanthropic Foundation Has Awarded \$2.62 Million in Grants for 32 Nonprofit-Led Projects and Continues to Gain Momentum in Community Outreach Efforts*

**AVON, Ohio – June 28, 2023** – In the five short years since Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America Inc. (KBGCNA) was created, the philanthropic organization has driven ongoing growth in its level of funding, the breadth of programs it supports, and employee engagement at its affiliated companies. All the while, KBGCNA has deepened its commitment to helping young people at risk gain access to education and the opportunity to lead more independent lives.

Since 2018, KBGCNA has done this and more through grants totaling \$2.62 million for 32 projects. Each grant advances the corporate foundation's strategic mission to open new prospects for people in need by promoting education, health and wellness, and social cohesion – through support of charitable organizations focusing on them – in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Grants from KBGCNA have supported vocational training for young adults and women, made STEM education a larger part of school curricula, equipped students and classrooms with computers, promoted arts as a viable career among youth, boosted inclusivity, and contributed COVID-19 relief efforts and supplies.

The philanthropic organization is the North American arm of Knorr-Bremse Global Care (KBGC), a global nonprofit entity founded in 2005 and operated by Knorr-Bremse. The Munich,

Germany-based Knorr-Bremse is the global market leader in braking systems and leading provider of other systems for rail and commercial vehicles.

KBGCNA centers its investments in the surrounding communities of Knorr-Bremse's three largest North American companies: Avon, Ohio-based Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix); Westminster, Maryland-based Knorr Brake Company (KBC); and Watertown, New York-based New York Air Brake LLC (NYAB). Each grant is overseen by a project champion, an employee of Bendix, KBC, or NYAB responsible for engaging with the grantee to ensure that the project remains on point from start to finish and seeking ways for local employee engagement, where possible.

"As KBGCNA marks five years, we are honored by how the foundation's projects have touched the lives of as many as 25,000 people, giving them increased access to education, vocational training, housing, and health and wellness improvements," said Maria Gutierrez, president of KBGCNA and Bendix senior director, environmental, social, and governance (ESG).

Gutierrez continued, "At the same time, we're proud of how the foundation has matured and grown – which ties directly to the impact it brings. As we look to the next five years and beyond, we are focused on ensuring we help make a real difference in the communities in which we operate by measuring our impact and building long-term partnerships with local nonprofit organizations. KBGCNA continually reviews what we're funding and how we operate to ensure we achieve the intended impact."

### **Growth Curve**

KBGCNA's award total of \$2.62 million since 2018 is made up of increasing investment amounts every year, with the aspiration for continued growth. In addition, the foundation has introduced multiyear grants for strategic partnerships and larger commitments. One example, from the 2022 funding cycle, is a \$240,000 grant to help Boys Hope Girls Hope of Northeastern Ohio enrich its services for students who recently graduated from high school and are pursuing postsecondary education in support of their careers. The grant is broken into three \$80,000 annual installments.

The increasing funding and introduction of multiyear investments have been joined by a broadening of the projects KBGCNA funds, with education remaining at their core. Most of the 30-plus projects have supported education in some capacity, whether benefiting school-age children, young adults seeking employment, or individuals in a position to use their training to fill an unmet need in the community.

KBGCNA grants have also supported vocational training programs designed to give community members the skills needed to enter the workforce or start a business. Other awards have focused on younger students, with funds dedicated to developing or increasing STEM curricula in schools, providing leadership training, and building inclusive arts education programs.

Employee engagement at Bendix, KBC, and NYAB has also grown since KBGCNA's founding. Previously, members of the foundation's steering committee served as project champions for funded initiatives. Now, employees across the three companies also take on a part of that vital role, expanding the number of company team members contributing to the projects.

"The initiatives that KBGCNA has chosen to support over the past five years benefit people from all walks of life," Gutierrez said. "But all have one thing in common: They enrich the lives of members of our communities who have been underserved when it comes to education, career readiness, and healthcare. Going forward, we remain committed to building on the growth we've achieved. We are honored to continue this work on behalf of Knorr-Bremse companies in North America."

**About Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America**

Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America Inc. (KBGCNA) is an independent organization operating as the North American arm of a global nonprofit organization – Knorr-Bremse Global Care. With an aim to address local social challenges more effectively, KBGCNA investments are centered in the surrounding communities of Knorr-Bremse's three largest North American companies: Avon, Ohio-based Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC; Westminster, Maryland-based Knorr Brake Company; and Watertown, New York-based New York Air Brake LLC. Funding activities are championed and supported by the employees of each of the three local companies. Follow us on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/knorr-bremse-global-care-north-america-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/knorr-bremse-global-care-north-america-inc).

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