Local Insurance Advisor Named President of MDRT Foundation

*New MDRT Foundation President from Chicago will drive global philanthropic initiatives.*

**Chicago, IL – (September 1, 2021)** **–** Chicagoan John F. Nichols, MSM, CLU, will succeed Brian P. Walsh, CLU, ChFC, as the 56th President of the [MDRT Foundation](https://www.mdrtfoundation.org/). Nichols, who has dedicated both his personal and professional life to giving back to his community, will carry this philanthropic spirit into his new role, elevating both the MDRT Foundation’s impact on the world and MDRT members’ impact on their communities.

A disability benefits consultant, Nichols’ career is centered on empowering his clients and his community by educating them about disability benefits – a topic that hits close to home for Nichols, who was involved in a near-death water-skiing experience that left him paralyzed from the neck down for six years. Inspired by this event, Nichols founded the Disability Resource Group, Inc., in 1999, a national insurance agency for which he currently serves as president. Throughout his career, he has become an expert witness in disability proceedings and developed a variety of disability products and administration systems. He has also authored two books about disability insurance.

As MDRT Foundation President, John Nichols will leverage his years of experience with the MDRT Foundation to empower members to invest back into their communities.

“I know firsthand how much one depends on others in overcoming catastrophic challenges. Throughout my six years of rehabilitation, I came to recognize and experience the deep connection and the value of relationships in my life,” Nichols said. “As President, I’m committed to continuing the Foundation’s mission through the global MDRT membership of investing back into their communities, providing support to those working to overcome their challenges.”

From committee leadership to service projects, Nichols has never let an opportunity to volunteer with the Foundation pass him by. Recognized as a Royal Order Excalibur Knight of the MDRT Foundation, Nichols has been an active donor since 2004 and a volunteer since 2009. His dedication to serving his community in both his personal and professional life embodies the goals of the MDRT Foundation to demonstrate the generosity, service and impact of MDRT members.

Building on the Foundation's 2020 partnerships and initiatives, under Nichols' leadership, the Foundation will continue to empower MDRT members to make a difference in their communities around the world. These efforts will address issues the pandemic and events of 2020 have shined a spotlight on, including food insecurity, racial inequality, mental health and access to clean water and hygiene.

The MDRT Foundation anticipates awarding $1.7 million in grants this year to non-profits around the globe.

**About the MDRT Foundation**

The MDRT Foundation was created in 1959 to empower MDRT members to make a difference in their communities while providing funds to worthwhile charitable organizations throughout the world. Since its inception, the MDRT Foundation has donated more than USD 38 million to charitable organizations serving people in 70 countries and all 50 U.S. states. The majority of these funds were raised by MDRT members and financial services industry partners. To learn more, follow MDRT Foundation on Facebook or visit mdrtfoundation.org.

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