We are committed to active involvement in the local communities around our hotels and corporate offices. That means being a valued, responsible community partner by ensuring that our business objectives enhance the quality of life in the community.

The aim of our community investment is to support global efforts that represent the business goals of IHG and which make a positive difference to the communities in which we operate. The activities we support must be aligned with our corporate values, ‘Winning Ways’, and our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct.

Who we support
At a corporate level, we focus on:
- **The environment** – we understand our responsibility to respect the environment and manage its impacts for the benefit of the communities in which we operate (e.g. energy, waste and water savings)
- **Local economic opportunity** – we support the development of sustainable opportunities in the community, especially in terms of education and skills training to enhance employment opportunities in the hospitality industry, predominantly through the IHG Academy
- **Disaster relief** – through our IHG Shelter in a Storm Programme, we are committed to helping provide disaster relief when natural and man-made disasters affect our hotels and the local communities surrounding them.

Community partnerships
In choosing which community organisations to support, primary consideration is given to requests that meet the following criteria:

- exhibit a clear purpose and defined need in one of IHG’s three areas of focus
- recognise innovative approaches in addressing the defined need
- demonstrate an efficient organisation and detail the organisation’s ability to follow through on its proposal
- explain clearly the benefits to IHG and our hotel communities.

At local level, our approach is to encourage our local managers and employees to use this policy as a common sense guide in deciding what is right for their community, while ensuring that all decisions conform to our Code of Ethics.

Our approach to charitable giving
Contributions are only made to organisations with verifiable charity status and whose ethical principles are consistent with our Code of Ethics and who align to one of our three focus areas.

We do not support organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, age, physical challenge or national origin. In addition, we will not generally provide contributions to:

- individuals
- religious organisations
- general operating support for hospitals and health care institutions
- capital campaigns
- endowment funds
- conferences, workshops or seminars not directly related to our business interests
- multi-year grants; only the first year of multi-year requests will be assured, with support in subsequent years dependent upon annual evaluation
- political donations of any kind.

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Review structure and process

- Corporate donations are governed by the Steering Group of the Corporate Responsibility Team (CRT).
- The CRT draws on staff input to guide our ‘Supporting our Communities’ policy.
- The CRT recommends an annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee, sets policies, guidelines, criteria and strategic direction, and approves all contributions with Executive Committee oversight.

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