In 2018, King & Spalding lawyers and staff invested thousands of hours into making our communities better places to live and work. We coordinated service projects, provided pro bono legal representation to low-income people, invested our time and resources through nonprofit board service and raised funds to benefit communities around the world.

Giving back is part of our history and culture at King & Spalding, and together we have positively impacted thousands across the globe. Reaching Out highlights just some of the ways that we gave back to our communities in 2018.

Continuing a Tradition of Giving

A COMMITMENT TO PRO BONO

- 37,000 pro bono hours
- 500 pro bono matters
- 770 pro bono volunteers
- 40 pro bono legal services partners

SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

- 7,700 community service hours
- 172 community service projects
- 1,000+ community service volunteers
- 100+ nonprofit/NGO partners
- $1M+ raised for United Way
Protecting the Rights of Public Housing Residents

Lawyers from King & Spalding’s San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices partnered with several nonprofit organizations to challenge an Oakland loitering ordinance. The firm filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of two public housing residents alleging that the ordinance was unconstitutional and was being used by the city’s housing authority police to harass public housing residents and their guests. The lawyers also alleged that the ordinance violated the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment because it failed to put residents on notice of what conduct is prohibited and because it gave law enforcement officers unlimited discretion to determine what constitutes a violation. The firm contended that the over-policing based on the loitering ordinance also violated the residents’ 4th Amendment rights to be free from unreasonable search and seizure. Six weeks after the lawsuit was filed, the Oakland City Council voted unanimously to repeal the ordinance.
Celebrating Founders Day, Supporting Children’s Health

Each year, King & Spalding lawyers and staff celebrate Founders Day, a firm-wide community service initiative marking the legacy of service and community engagement that our founding partners established more than 130 years ago.

On Founders Day 2018, more than 250 King & Spalding volunteers invested 650 hours of service to support children’s hospitals and health organizations in 21 communities around the world.

- Volunteers organized crafts and games for patients at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston and at Hughes Spalding Hospital in Atlanta.
- Lawyers and staff donated hygiene items and assembled care packages for families of young patients in Paris and San Francisco.
- Volunteers in Denver assembled no-sew blankets for young patients at Children’s Hospital Colorado.
- The New York, Washington, D.C., Moscow and Los Angeles offices collected books and toys to stock patient playrooms and libraries.

A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

- 1,800+ children and their families benefited
- $6,000+ raised for children’s hospitals and health organizations
- 400+ books and toys collected to stock patient playrooms and toy chests
- 200+ children provided with games, crafts and meals at patient parties
- 420 care packages assembled for children & families
Lawyers and staff raised funds for a children’s hospital in Singapore and a charitable initiative in the United Arab Emirates that provides everyday essentials to day laborers.

Volunteers painted a mural to brighten a children’s hospital in Silicon Valley and made 50 congratulatory signs for young patients celebrating treatment milestones in Charlotte.

Volunteers assembled 700 bracelets for children attending a camp for kids with cancer in Austin and Atlanta, and the Tokyo office hosted a bake sale fundraiser for an organization that supports families affected by pediatric cancer.

Volunteers served dinner to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Chicago and raised funds for the Ronald McDonald House in Sacramento.

Lawyers and staff visited a children’s hospice in London and raised funds for a children’s hospice in Frankfurt.
King & Spalding lawyers from the New York office secured a federal trial victory on behalf of an immigrant victim of domestic violence by obtaining the denial of a petition seeking repatriation of the client’s four-year-old son to Hungary. Our client lived with her child in Hungary for 11 months before they fled to the U.S. to escape the child’s father’s abuse. The child’s father filed a petition under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, claiming that the mother wrongfully removed the child and retained him in the U.S. in violation of the father’s rights of custody.

Our lawyers successfully argued that the petition should be denied and presented evidence of the father’s severe emotional, physical and sexual abuse of the mother as well as the risk of physical and psychological harm to the child should he be exposed to such abuse. Following a two-day bench trial, a federal judge issued an order denying the petition.
King & Spalding personnel raised more than $20,000 to support relief efforts following the California wildfires.

Lawyers and staff in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., New York and Houston raised $10,000 for American Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Volunteers in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., made 2,000 sandwiches for local food pantries, and volunteers in Charlotte served lunch at a crisis assistance center.

Lawyers and staff in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta participated in legal industry food and fund drives to support area food banks. Volunteers in Chicago collected canned goods to support Common Pantry at Thanksgiving.

The Silicon Valley and Atlanta offices held winter coat and accessories drives.

Atlanta volunteers spent three Saturdays building the office’s 21st Habitat for Humanity house. Volunteers in the Washington, D.C., office participated in two Habitat build days.

Singapore volunteers assisted blind and low-sight people on Flag Day in support of the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped.

Volunteers in Washington, D.C., wrote letters to veterans and deployed service members.
Helping Reunite Asylum Seekers with Their Children

King & Spalding lawyers led by the Washington, D.C., office filed two related habeas petitions in federal court on behalf of two women from Honduras who were separated from their daughters (over whom they had legal guardianship status) when the women came to the U.S. seeking asylum. The firm filed the petitions seeking to prevent the clients’ deportations and argued that the women should receive new credible fear interviews. The firm then amended its complaints, based on a new decision in a related case, to argue that the government employed the wrong standards to judge whether our clients had a credible fear of persecution should they be returned to their home country.

After litigating the combined cases for almost six months, the government agreed to provide both clients with new opportunities to demonstrate the merits of their asylum claims. Both clients have been released from custody and reunited with their daughters.
Raising Funds, Raising Awareness


Forty-seven London volunteers collectively cycled 1,000 kilometers — equivalent to riding from London to Paris and back — to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Chicago volunteers participated in Race Judicata to raise funds and awareness for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, a K&S nonprofit pro bono partner.

Lawyers and staff in London participated in the Tower of London Run to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Volunteers in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., London and Houston participated in 5K races that raised funds and awareness for healthy living, organ donation, homeless families and affordable housing.
King & Spalding lawyers in Atlanta are representing five men who allege they were molested as children by their former karate teacher. On their behalf, the team filed a lawsuit, the first under a Georgia statute called the Hidden Predator Act, which temporarily reopened the statute of limitations for civil claims that were expired. In 2018, the team completed discovery and is now preparing for trial in summer 2019.
Teaching, Tutoring, Training

Lawyers and staff in the Washington, D.C., office tutored high school students from Thurgood Marshall Academy every week during the school year.

Atlanta volunteers partnered with Emory Law School students and The Coca-Cola Company Legal Department to teach classes and workshops on legal topics through Street Law, Inc., a program designed to encourage young people of color to pursue legal careers.

Volunteers helped develop business literacy and leadership skills in students at Youth About Business summer camps in New York and Atlanta.

The Houston office hosted a student intern from Communities in Schools, and the Atlanta office hosted student interns from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and an Atlanta Bar Association program.

Atlanta volunteers participated in a virtual tutoring program with first-grade students from Hope-Hill Elementary School.

During Black History Month, the Washington, D.C., office collected 175 books about African American heritage for the library of an area middle school.
Improving Conditions for Prisoners

King & Spalding lawyers from the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices have partnered with a nonprofit organization to bring a major federal lawsuit seeking to reform conditions at the Santa Barbara Jail. Two major sources of contention are inadequate medical care and inadequate mental health care. Our team believes that improving levels of care will not only benefit prisoners but will also lower levels of recidivism, thereby benefiting the community at large. The case is currently in settlement negotiations.

Expanding Our Immigration Work

King & Spalding expanded its pro bono immigration work in 2018, launching a new program to help recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) with their renewal applications, creating an innovative virtual clinic across the firm.

With the help of more than 60 King & Spalding partners, counsel, associates and staff attorneys spanning multiple offices, the team provided pro bono assistance to more than 150 DACA recipients in 2018.
In celebration of International Women’s Day, 250 King & Spalding personnel in 11 U.S. offices partnered with humanitarian aid organization MedShare to assemble 2,000 clean birthing kits. The kits contained medical essentials for women in medically underserved areas of the world to deliver their babies cleanly and safely. MedShare sent the kits to hospitals and community health workers in developing nations to support women without access to traditional care. The firm and our personnel also contributed $30,000 to MedShare to support the project.

Volunteers in Los Angeles assembled 100 clean home kits and 100 snack packs for women transitioning out of homelessness.

The Atlanta office partnered with volunteers from the UPS Legal Department to conduct practice in-person and telephone interviews for women participating in a Dress for Success job skills training program.

On International Women’s Day, volunteers in the Middle East assembled gift boxes for the Dubai Foundation for Women & Children, and volunteers in Tokyo attended a flower-arranging class fundraiser.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

- 250 volunteers participated
- 500+ hours invested
- 2,000 clean birthing kits assembled
- $30,000 raised to support maternal and infant health
The Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office asked the Chicago office of King & Spalding for advice on best practices for outside counsel engagements. To provide this advice, King & Spalding conducted an independent and extensive review of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office past practices for the engagement of outside counsel. King & Spalding then prepared a report recommending comprehensive reforms addressing the selection, engagement and management of outside counsel by the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. King & Spalding’s recommendations included legislative action that the Illinois General Assembly has since passed.

On May 25, 2018, the Cook County State’s Attorney publicly released the report and recommendations. The Cook County State’s Attorney stated, “I greatly appreciate King & Spalding’s diligent work and thorough report which provides important guidance that I’m committed to implementing.”
For the 12th year, the Houston office assembled and delivered red wagons filled with toys to patients at Texas Children’s Hospital through nonprofit partner Ryan’s Rainbow.

The Chicago office adopted a second-grade classroom in a low-income neighborhood and provided toys, winter coats, hats and gloves to 21 children.

Lawyers and staff in Denver organized a holiday fundraising drive for Metro Caring to support healthy foods in schools.

Lawyers and staff in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Charlotte and Houston fulfilled the holiday wish lists of more than 400 children.

Volunteers in New York donated toys to children and personal care items to seniors and people with disabilities.

The Los Angeles office collected toys and sports equipment for Toys for Tots.

The Tokyo office held a holiday cake sale to raise funds for Shine On! Kids, and the London office hosted an annual holiday jumper (sweater) party to raise funds for Save the Children.
Partnering with Nonprofits Across the U.S. and Around the World

Action Ministries
American Civil Liberties Union
American Heart Association
American Red Cross
Animal Defense Partnership
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Atlanta Bar Association
Atlanta Children’s Shelter
Atlanta Community Food Bank
Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Atlanta Public Schools
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Bärenherz
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
Box Appeal
Breast Cancer Care
British Heart Foundation
California Community Foundation
Camp Sunshine
Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth
Capital Area Food Bank
Catholic Charities
Central Park Conservancy
Chicago Cares
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Children’s Hospital Colorado
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Children’s Law Center
Children’s National Medical Center
Common Pantry
Communities in Schools
Crisis Assistance Ministry
Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School
Crossroads Community Ministries
D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center
DC Volunteer Lawyers Project
District of Columbia Public Schools
Downtown Women’s Center
Dress for Success
Dubai Foundation for Women & Children
Emory Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans
First Baptist Church of Dawson
Foundation for Hospital Art
Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services
Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta
Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Georgia Asylum & Immigration Network
Georgia Heirs Property Law Center
Georgia Innocence Project
Georgia Justice Project
Georgia Legal Services Program
Georgia Resource Center
Georgia State University Law School’s Center for Access to Justice
German Sports Aid Foundation
Goodwill Industries of North Georgia
Habitat for Humanity
HeLP Legal Services Clinic
Her Justice
Houston Bar Association
Houston Young Lawyers Association
Hughes Spalding Hospital
Human Rights First
Immigration Equality
Innovations for Learning
International Refugee Assistance Project
J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge
Kids in Need of Defense
KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
The Learning Collaborative
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Legal Services NYC
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Levine Children’s Hospital
LifeGift
London Legal Support Trust
March of Dimes
Martha’s Table
MedShare
Metro Caring
Michael Mosier Defeat DIPG Foundation
Miller County Disaster Relief
Montefiore
MUST Ministries
National Veterans Legal Services Program
New Horizons Senior Center
O’Brien School for the Maasai
One Warm Coat
Operation Gratitude
Podari Zhizn
Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta
Pursuing Independent Paths
Raising Expectations Inc.
Richard House Children’s Hospice
Robert-Debré University Hospital
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Ryan’s Rainbow
Safe Shores
San Francisco–Marin Food Bank
Save the Children
Shine On! Kids
Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped
Southern Center for Human Rights
Starost v Radost
Street Law, Inc.
Talinh Justice Center
Texas Children’s Hospital
Texas Civil Rights Project
Thurgood Marshall Academy
Toys for Tots
Trevor Project
Tuacancy Intervention Project
United Way
Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas
Volunteers of America
Voto Latino
Warriors Community Foundation
Westside Future Fund
Whitman-Walker Health
Willing Hearts
World Land Trust
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