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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Markel American Insurance Company awards scholarships to BUILD Moto Mentor students

**Waukesha, WI, August 31, 2012** - Markel American Insurance Company yesterday awarded scholarships to five students who participated in the BUILD Moto Mentor program. BUILD, founded by The Iron Horse Hotel in 2011, provides Milwaukee area high school students the opportunity to learn valuable trade, life, business and interpersonal skills through the restoration of vintage motorcycles. Teams were given \$2,500 and 100 days each to rebuild a vintage Honda CB160 or CB175.

Markel American has been a proud sponsor of the BUILD Moto Mentor program for the past two years. "It's very rewarding to see young people learning new skills and working together as a team to bring ideas to life" said Audrey Hanken, President of the Markel American division.

The \$500 scholarships were presented to students who will be attending college, technical or trade schools this fall and were selected based on nomination by their BUILD team's mentor and submissions from the students that shared their experience in the BUILD program.

The scholarship recipients are Yuan Smith and Jon Encarnacion – Bradley Tech High School, Nathan Peters – Cudahy High School, and Andrew Schmidt and Bryce Engel both of Cedarburg High School. They were each presented their scholarship at the BUILD auction night, where motorcycles built through the program are auctioned to raise funds for the future of the program.

"These students work really hard to make the bikes works of art," said Mark Hoedel, Markel Claim Examiner and BUILD Mentor. "It's so much fun to watch their skills progress throughout the project and to see it all come together at the auction night."

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## **About Markel**

Markel American Insurance Company, part of Markel Corporation, specializes in providing insurance coverage on Specialty Properties (manufactured homes, vacation and seasonal homes, vacant homes, nonstandard homes, rental properties, and low value dwellings), Recreational Vehicles (motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs, and snowmobiles), Watercraft (powerboats, fishing boats, PWCs, commercial marine, high performance boats, and yachts), Weddings, and Private Events.

Markel Corporation is an international property and casualty insurance holding company headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. The Company markets and underwrites specialty insurance products and programs to a variety of niche markets. In each of these markets, the Company seeks to provide quality products and excellent customer service. The financial goals of the Company are to earn consistent underwriting profits and superior investment returns to build shareholder value. Please visit <a href="www.markelcorp.com">www.markelcorp.com</a> for more information.