

Giving Guide

The 2017 GIVING GUIDE

OC Philanthropy: Lessons in Innovation

by Shelley Hoss, President,
Orange County Community Foundation

The same innovation that fuels Orange County's economy drives best-in-class strategies in philanthropy.

Between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2016, savvy philanthropists contributed nearly \$60 million to funds held at the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF), bringing our total assets to \$300 million, a milestone achieved by less than 10% of U.S. community foundations. This outpouring demonstrated the best of both the head and the heart – astute financial planning coupled with a passion for charitable impact.

One of the reasons I believe philanthropy thrives in Orange County is our tradition of DIY success. Here, philanthropists are made not born, thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit that runs deep. Our economy is spurred by self-made wealth creators rather than intergenerational transfers of wealth, and this distinction makes all the difference when it comes to our county's philanthropic potential.



Shelley Hoss

Entrepreneurial givers achieve impact through disciplines such as:

Coming Together for Impact. One donor can make an individual impact, but like-minded philanthropists move the needle on a cause by working together. Donahue Schriber Chairman and CEO Pat Donahue had a vision for transforming the lives of Orange County veterans. By partnering with OCCF and fellow leaders in the real estate industry, \$580,000 was raised at the inaugural OC Real Estate Luncheon in April 2016 to give Orange County veterans the welcome home they deserve.

Managing Philanthropy Like a Portfolio. Entrepreneurial philanthropists invest in the community like they manage their portfolios – with one eye on near-term strategies and the other on long-term impact. In 1998, former real estate entrepreneur Ranney Draper worked with OCCF to establish the Helping Kids Succeed initiative, paving the way for high school students to gain access to higher education and, in many cases, become first in their families to attend college. Since then, the initiative has granted nearly \$5 million, serving more than 100,000 at-risk youth.

Getting Top-Notch Advice. Savvy investors rely on expert guidance to drive performance in their portfolios, and strategic philanthropists do the same. From tax and legal guidance to the support of a philanthropic advisor like OCCF, donors who want to achieve life-changing impact from their charitable investments rely on knowledgeable partners to help guide the way.

The efforts of entrepreneurial givers are paying off, yet there's a lot more ground to cover – issues that can be tackled with innovative strategies and entrepreneurial grit. All you need is your passion, a vision for the impact you want to make and the right partners. Fortunately in Orange County, you're in good company. Ready, set, go!

To learn more about how you can grow the good through strategic giving, contact Shelley Hoss at 949.553.4202, ext. 225 or shoss@oc-cf.org.