NEWPORT’S NONPROFITS

Local charities make a difference in our community and beyond by supporting causes from the arts to the environment, health, literacy and more.

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OC Community Foundation

Sometimes, the most overwhelming aspect of philanthropy is deciding where to give. With so many important causes and vital needs requesting aid, it can be difficult to determine where to focus your efforts. This is where the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) steps in. This guiding force offers ample direction to those who need assistance choosing where to give. If philanthropists are contributing to multiple causes, the OCCF can help donors consolidate their efforts by working with them to create a fund and then distributing those monetary investments seamlessly among various causes, whether they be in the arts, education, economic development, or any other options in a long list of altruistic choices within the Orange County community and around the world.

“We play that role of matching donors with good nonprofit partners wherever those interests might take them,” says OCCF President Shelley Hoss. As a counselor during a philanthropist’s lifetime and a steward that keeps their giving legacy intact after one’s passing, the OCCF ensures that funds are strategically and effectively administered to causes deemed most important by each benefactor. “We are devoted … to being an adviser and a guide to local philanthropists,” Hoss says.

Another way OCCF bolsters outreach for the county is through the annual iheartOC Giving Day that it coordinates. “We’ve taken a 30-hour period, from 6 a.m. one day until noon on the next, and done huge outreach and publicity to encourage people to give during that day,” Hoss says. “Between the last two years, we have raised [more than] $5 million.” The next iheartOC Giving Day is planned for 2018 in a new format.

For those who are interested in taking their first steps into the world of philanthropy, Hoss suggests discovering what moves you personally.

“The OC Community Foundation matches donors with a variety of causes.”

“Few people stay invested in things that are [coming] from an intellectual perspective,” she says. “I think we have to start from our heart. … We use a great quote from Mark Twain. He said, ‘The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.’”

After discovering what moves and inspires you, the OCCF’s Nonprofit Central website is a great place to decide where to donate your time or funds. As Hoss says, “We designed it so that it would be as easy as possible for people to find their nonprofits, whether searching by location or their city or by interest area. … We want you to find your perfect nonprofit match.” (oc-cf.org) — Briana Verdugo