

Answering the Call

BY RESHMA BLOCK, BOARD CHAIR, AND SHELLEY HOSS, PRESIDENT AND CEO
ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

“To give away money is an easy matter, and in any man’s power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large and when, and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man’s power nor an easy matter. Hence it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy and noble.” —Aristotle

The heart of OCCF’s mission is translating charitable intent into social impact. Doing that well requires expertise in the art of strategic giving—understanding our donors’ goals as well as our region’s greatest challenges. Never has this responsibility been more crucial than over the past year, as our community reels from the deepening effects of the pandemic. While generous individuals and families yearn to make a difference, nonprofits stagger under the weight of overwhelming needs.

It has been our privilege to stand in this gap, answering the call to guide philanthropy where it is needed most, where impact will be most meaningful and lasting, and where groundwork for the long-term health and well-being of our community is being laid.

Will you join us in answering the call?

Best of the Head and the Heart

Orange County’s philanthropic community represents the best of the head and the heart. Here, innovation and entrepreneurial drive meet generosity of spirit and the desire to create opportunities for our most vulnerable neighbors. There could be no better place in the world to be a community foundation!

OCCF is home to nearly 620 charitable funds through which we have granted more than \$830M since our inception. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, OCCF ranks in the top 2% among more than 780 U.S. community foundation peers for annual grantmaking.



In partnership with our donors, OCCF has granted

\$200 MILLION

over the past 24 months

Fueling progress toward our goal of reaching

\$1 BILLION

in granting by November 2024

Upon reaching this goal, we will join only

35

other community foundations in the nation
to ever have reached this milestone!



Driving Innovation for Good

Last year, as the first wave of the pandemic swept Orange County, nonprofits developed new ways to deliver their programs and got creative about engaging donors. Today, these organizations must keep evolving to support the long-term recovery of those they serve, and our community as a whole.

But they can’t do it alone. Sustainable recovery will only work when social sector entrepreneurs and innovators step in with new approaches. Enter the OCCF Social Innovation Fund (SIF), created in 2019 by venture-capital inspired donors to drive creative solutions to our community’s most complex challenges. With OCCF’s help, the SIF has provided nearly \$650,000 to 11 projects addressing crucial needs including homelessness, mental health, and human trafficking, with inspiring early results.

To join us in answering the call for social innovation, contact Todd Hanson at thanson@oc-cf.org.

The Welcome Home They Deserve

For far too long, transitioning from military service to life at home has been a struggle for veterans and their families. OCCF launched the Orange County Veterans Initiative in 2011, then expanded it after commissioning a 2015 study (The State of the American Veteran: The Orange County Veterans Study) that exposed the immense challenges Orange County veterans faced, from civilian life transition to employment readiness and health care. The OC Veterans Initiative connects donors, businesses, and community leaders with nonprofits and services supporting veterans. In the last five years, it has:

- Granted \$4 million to 17 organizations serving veterans
- Assisted 29,286 individuals and families
- Placed 595 individuals in full-time employment

To join us in answering the call on behalf of OC veterans, contact Carol Ferguson at cferguson@oc-cf.org.

A Bold Vision for Equity

As a successful commercial real estate developer and investor, longtime OCCF partner, and founder of the Draper Family Foundation, Ranney Draper has always had a passion for creating paths of opportunity for those in need. In leading the Draper Family Foundation, he has focused on addressing inequality and removing barriers, especially to higher education. Although equity has always been at the heart of the Foundation, Ranney has recently expanded his vision to create real-world impact for a more equitable future.

To accomplish this, Ranney asked OCCF to identify Orange County organizations that support diversity, equity, and inclusion through advocacy and social justice, education, health, and housing. OCCF helped Ranney create a custom Giving Plan to execute his vision through impactful grantmaking to organizations working for a more equitable Orange County, starting with an initial round of grants totalling \$520,000 to 16 local organizations.

To join donors like Ranney in answering the call for a more equitable future, contact Keri Mesina at kmesina@oc-cf.org.

There has never been a time when inspired and informed giving has been more important for our community, our nation, and our world. The challenges we face are a clarion call for putting philanthropy—a love of mankind—into action. How can we help you answer *your* call?



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