



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact

Justine Houston-Brown
Rocket Science PR
(909) 660-2173

justine@rocket-science.com

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RISES TO 2020'S CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVES RECORD YEAR OF GRANTMAKING

**OCCF awards \$102 million in grants, answering the call for need
by driving collaboration and partnership**

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (December 18, 2020) – As nonprofits and vulnerable populations around the country reeled from the impact of COVID-19, the [Orange County Community Foundation](#) (OCCF) stepped up to the challenge to drive record-breaking impact. OCCF revealed at its recent virtual Annual Meeting that in fiscal year 2020, the organization awarded \$102 million in grants and scholarships – its highest annual total ever – up nearly 50% over the previous year. Cumulative granting since OCCF's inception in 1989 now stands at \$732 million – a major step towards OCCF's ambitious goal of reaching \$1 billion in total grants and scholarships by 2024.

"Our fiscal year results are a direct reflection of the Orange County community's compassion and strong collaboration in the philanthropic sector to meet this year's unprecedented challenges," said Shelley Hoss, OCCF president and CEO. "We are honored to partner with Orange County's passionate donors and local nonprofits to uplift our community when our help has been needed most."

Highlights of the year's collective action and collaborative successes include:

COVID-19 Relief Funding

In March, OCCF partnered with St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund, Charitable Ventures, and OC Grantmakers in launching the [OC Community Resilience Fund](#) to respond to the needs of local individuals and families hardest hit by the pandemic. More than \$4 million has been raised and immediately deployed to support the work of 164 local nonprofits serving the county's most vulnerable populations. Now, it remains open as a community resource, conducting ongoing assessments of the pandemic's impact on our community, monitoring needs within the nonprofit sector, and offering guidance for individual and foundation funders seeking to provide the highest and most effective use of philanthropic resources.

2020 Collaborative Giving Days

OCCF's Collaborative Giving Days, a series of online events to highlight the exemplary work of local nonprofits, secured support from 6,476 donors and yielded \$3,227,500 for 98 organizations – twice the amount raised in 2019, making 2020 the most successful year since OCCF's inaugural Giving Day in 2015. The online giving model matches OC nonprofits with shared missions – from homelessness to preserving ecosystems to supporting local veterans – to gain momentum on one shared day and allows them to leverage a combined marketing effort for collective success. Since OCCF's inaugural iheartOC Giving Day in 2015, this series has raised more than \$11 million for Orange County nonprofits.

The *Igniting Potential* 2020 Giving Day raised support for youth-serving organizations like KidWorks, which serves students and families preschool, after-school programs, tutoring, mentoring, and adult services in the areas of health, parenting classes, and support groups. KidWorks' CEO David Benavides said, "We are most grateful for the spirit of collaboration that we have seen throughout Orange County. While the year has brought its challenges, nonprofits have linked arms to work together –

and the philanthropic community is wholeheartedly supporting the nonprofit sector – so we can serve the most vulnerable populations in the county."

Looking Ahead: Philanthropy in 2021

OCCF projects increased collaboration and creative partnerships in the year ahead. Nearly 80% of OC funders surveyed in the [2020 State of OC Philanthropy report](#) indicated likeliness to coordinate with other funders by seeking commonalities, inviting all parties to the table and staying in the conversation despite divergent timelines or priorities. Research has also shown that increased giving across the United States is projected to climb. [The Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy](#) forecasts that total giving will rise 5.1% in 2021, with gifts by individuals up 4.7% and giving by foundations predicted to increase by 6.3%.

To learn more about Orange County Community Foundation, visit www.oc-cf.org.

About Orange County Community Foundation

Founded in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) works with donors, strengthens the local nonprofit sector and works to find solutions to community needs. Since its inception, OCCF has awarded more than \$732 million in grants and scholarships, placing the organization in the top two percent in grantmaking among U.S. community foundations. For more information, visit oc-cf.org or call 949-553-4202. Be a part of our conversation on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). View OCCF's 2020 annual report [here](#).

###