



Joining Forces for Good: How Innovation Fuels OC Giving

by Shelley Hoss, President,
Orange County Community Foundation

The qualities that define Orange County's entrepreneurial economy – innovation and creativity – are also driving a new approach to philanthropy among the next generation of givers. Three recent collaborative efforts at the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) exemplify this trend, pairing a high level of engagement with a laser focus on impact.

"I believe there's a growing wave of next-generation philanthropists who are driven by improving outcomes and don't want to feel tied down to conventional models," says entrepreneur and philanthropist Katie Kalvoda.

She's on a mission to discover the next big thing in philanthropy: "We invest in people and believe that human ingenuity can be applied to the nonprofit world with as much vigor as it is applied in the for-profit world."

Philanthropists Want Opportunities to Invest in Causes. In her search for innovations in philanthropy, Kalvoda turned to OCCF to assemble a brain trust of inspired, emerging donors to create a laboratory for philanthropic exploration. The result? The Innovative Philanthropy group, which is designed to navigate less traditional, high-impact philanthropic investments. Their last meeting challenged members to rethink water and featured a social entrepreneur who invented a "hydropanel," a device that makes drinking water from sunlight and air. Kalvoda envisioned the group as an ideal platform for people with big ideas to actively engage in philanthropy in ways that are meaningful to them and potentially groundbreaking for Orange County.

Women Give Together for Impact. Like Kalvoda, Vicki Booth also wanted to consider untapped potential in philanthropy. She zeroed in on the key role women play in financial decisions for their families, including their philanthropic investments. Booth launched the new Women's Giving Group to address this trend, building a forum for women to engage in collective exploration of giving and provide them a place to act and create impact. From learning together to sharing ideas to pooling resources, it's all coming alive in this new group.

Next-Generation Leaders Are Tackling Social Issues. When it comes to philanthropists who are ready, willing and excited to interject fresh perspectives into giving and champion the changes they want to see in Orange County and beyond, look to the members of OCCF's Impact Philanthropy group, founded by professionals and emerging leaders in Orange County seeking original approaches to social impact. Over the past eight years, the Impact Philanthropy Group has awarded nearly \$320,000 in grants to 35 local nonprofits.

Shelley Hoss

Since May 2000, Shelley Hoss has served as president of one of Orange County's most prominent philanthropic organizations, the Orange County Community Foundation. The mission of OCCF is to inspire a passion for lifelong philanthropy, faithfully steward donors' intentions, and catalyze sustainable community impact.

