

Orange County Community Foundation Deploys \$825,000 in Support of 14 Local Nonprofits Serving Orange County Veterans

Second annual Orange County Real Estate Luncheon slated for April 20, 2017 will benefit veteran service nonprofits through OCCF's OC Veterans Initiative

Newport Beach, Calif. (March 23, 2017) – The Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) has announced that its [Orange County Veterans Initiative](#) (OCVI), in partnership with the Orange County Real Estate Industry Veterans Initiative (OCRE), distributed \$825,000 in grants to 14 nonprofit organizations serving the critical needs of Orange County veterans -this past year.

OCVI is administered through OCCF and seeks to line up philanthropic, public and private sector resources with timely opportunities to address critical gaps in services to veterans and their families in Orange County. The initiative, founded in 2011 and expanded in 2015 based on new findings from the first-ever study, [The State of the American Veteran: The Orange County Veterans Study](#), has received support by generous donors and businesses in Orange County seeking to help give veterans the welcome home they deserve. In 2015, the inaugural year, \$500,000 was distributed to 7 nonprofit organizations. These grantees provided referrals and/or services to 4,355 veterans and their family members. The following year, \$825,000 was distributed to twice the number of veteran service agencies.

"Funding through OCVI has provided high-performing, veteran-focused service organizations the ability to proactively connect with this demographic to not only create a positive outcome for the veterans and their families, but for the community as a whole," said Shelley Hoss, OCCF president. "As we move forward in the second year of the initiative, we are focused on continuing to improve outreach by building on synergies within the cohort of grantees through the development of common goals."

Orange County Real Estate Luncheon

In 2017, OCCF will again partner with the Orange County Real Estate Luncheon Initiative to raise critical funds to support nonprofits focused on services for veterans in Orange County. The second annual Orange County Real Estate Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 20 at Hotel Irvine and will feature keynote speaker Chad Hennings, a former All-American and Outland Trophy winner from the Air Force Academy. A decorated veteran, Hennings flew 45 combat missions and was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal twice and an Outstanding Unit Award. After returning home, Chad went on to play nine seasons with the Dallas Cowboys and won three Super Bowl Championships.

Visit oc-cf.org/2017OCREL to purchase tickets, sponsor, or donate to the Orange County Real Estate Luncheon.

2016 OC Veterans Initiative Grantees

The 2016 OCVI grantees were selected based on their ability to effectively provide services for veterans and their families in alignment with OCVI's mission, including 1) improving assessment and referral services; 2) holistic transition support programs; and 3) education and employment support programs.

Congratulations to the following grant recipients:

Organization	Program Description
211 Orange County	211 is Orange County's Military and Veteran Central Clearinghouse (CC) which provides resources and referrals directed at veterans and their families. The CC includes an online searchable database, a 24-hour telephone helpline and facilitated referrals.
Child Guidance Center	Grant is supporting Strong Families, Strong Children (SFSC) , a consortium of five nonprofit partners (Child Guidance Center, Human Options, Children and Family Futures, Families Forward, and Veterans Legal Institute) bringing together a coordinated, community-based approach to serve OC veterans, transitioning service members, and their families, including children. SFSC offers a continuum of military-culturally competent, evidence-based mental health, basic needs, and family support services.
Goodwill Industries of Orange County	Grant is supporting the Tierney Center program, which focuses on supporting the transitioning veteran with the goal of financial independence for the veteran and their family. The Tierney Center will identify and enroll OC Veterans into a central database and provide facilitated referrals and case management as needed to meet the need of veterans and their families.
Strength In Support	Grant is supporting an individualized peer-mentoring program that provides support to help new veterans and their families build relationships and deal with isolation, while offering practical support to overcome struggles related to deployment and reentry.
Working Wardrobes for a New Start	Grant is supporting VetNet , a comprehensive employment support program designed to serve veterans and their family members through a multi-faceted, holistic approach including case management, peer navigators, social services referrals, mental health, legal services, career training and placement.
Cal State Fullerton	Grant is supporting Cal State Fullerton's Veterans Resource Center , which assists veterans who have exhausted their GI benefits, fund emergency grants, internship stipends, and a student assistant to help veterans with social and academic integration.
Easter Seals Southern California, Inc.	Grant is supporting the Bob Hope Veterans Support Program to assist veterans in their transition back to civilian life through peer navigation, case management, and referral strategies to provide assessment, employment services, and holistic support.
Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund	Grant is supporting the Education and Career Transition Assistance Program which empowers veterans to succeed in life outside the military by providing assistance with education coordination, as well as direct support to further career, education, and transition goals.
Irvine Valley College	Grant is supporting Irvine Valley College's Veterans Resource Center in support of their case management and counseling program, while providing emergency grants to veterans when necessary to help them achieve their

	academic and professional goals.
Saddleback College	Grant is supporting Saddleback College's Veterans Resource Center which will use grants funds to provide emergency funding and outreach for veterans to achieve their academic goals.
UCI Foundation's Veteran Resource Center	Grant is supporting UCI's Veteran Resource Center's programs which help to bridge the funding gap between the 36 months of GI education benefits and funding requirements to finish a degree and to help veteran students with emergency expenses such as gas, groceries, books, and other items.
Vanguard University of Southern California	Grant is supporting the Veteran Student Leadership Development and Career Preparedness Program to support adaptive technologies and pilot a Student Veteran Career preparedness partnership with Saddleback College.
Volunteers of America	Grant is supporting the Battle Buddy Bridge (B3) program which provides transitioning veterans with peer support including referrals to healthcare providers, employment support, housing, and transportation services.
zero8hundred	Grant is supporting the Military Transition Support Project, enabling them to open an Orange County branch of their highly successful program which began in San Diego. The project matches active duty military members with community partners and provides intensive peer navigation services focused on creating a strategic plan for reintegration into civilian life in Orange County.

About Orange County Community Foundation

Founded in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) works with donors to strengthen the local nonprofit sector and find solutions to community needs. Since its inception, OCCF has awarded \$425 million in grants and scholarships and ranks among the top 10 percent in asset size among more than 750 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 [2016 annual report](#).

About Orange County Veterans Initiative

The Orange County Veterans Initiative (OCVI) was launched by the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) in 2011 to support veterans transitioning to civilian life with access to employment readiness and job skills, secure housing for themselves and their families, and access to physical and mental healthcare services. In 2015 OCVI was expanded based on findings from The State of the American Veteran: The Orange County Veterans Study, which brought much needed attention to the challenges facing OC veterans. Through the support of generous donors and in partnership with the Orange County Real Estate Luncheon Initiative, OCVI has provided more than \$1.3 million in support for nonprofits focused on serving veterans and their families. Learn more about OCVI by visiting oc-cf.org/community.
