

Newport Beach Independent

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

SHINING A LIGHT ON LOCAL NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

OC Community Foundation Awards Grants



Crystal Cove cottages

BY NB INDY STAFF

The Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) has granted \$100,000 to 14 local nonprofit organizations dedicated to environmental education and conservation of natural resources.

Funding will support hands-on education programs that increase environmental awareness and understanding.

"OCCF is proud to channel the efforts and resources of our generous donors and partners toward the common goal of protecting and conserving our environment," said Shelley Hoss, president, OCCF. "By increasing understanding of the importance of environmental conservation, we can help ensure our natural resources

flourish for years to come."

The grants were awarded from the Environmental Fund within OCCF's Orange County Endowment, established in 1994 to respond quickly and effectively to the county's most pressing needs. To date, this fund has awarded more than \$530,000 to local organizations that support environmental education,

conservation and preservation.

One of the grantees is Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach. Their grant is to support the Youth Environmental Education programs that teach science concepts and promote environmental stewardship.

Another local grantee is Tides Center/Marine Education Project. Their grant is to support Algerian sea lavender removal, which is the most invasive species found in Upper Newport Bay's marsh habitat.

Local grantee Crystal Cove Conservancy's grant is to support the Project CRYSTAL Community Science Program, which immerses under-resourced youth in investigating the most effective methods to restore Crystal Cove State Park.

Other 2018 grantees and projects include Audubon Starr Ranch, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Bolsa Chica Land Trust, Charitable Ventures of Orange County, Heritage Museum of OC, Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Ocean Institute, Orange County Coastkeeper, Sea and Sage Audubon Society, and The Ecology Center.

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 \$560 million in grants and scholarships and ranks in the top two percent in grantmaking activity among more than 780 U.S. community foundations.

For more information, visit oc-cf.org or call (949) 553-4202.