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SERVING ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS**

*OCCF along with the OC Real Estate Luncheon is Leading Efforts to Support Veterans as they
Transition Back to Civilian Life*

Newport Beach, Calif. (January 8, 2019) – The Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF), in partnership with the Orange County Real Estate Industry, recently awarded \$918,000 in grants to 13 nonprofit organizations serving the critical needs of Orange County veterans and their families. The grants are part of OCCF’s OC Veterans Initiative (OCVI) to help returning military veterans successfully integrate back to civilian life.

The OC Veterans Initiative led by OCCF seeks to align philanthropic resources with opportunities to benefit the health, education and employment of veterans and their families in Orange County. Since its founding in 2011, the initiative has granted over \$2.3 million to nonprofits reaching more than 15,000 veterans and their families.

“Through our Veterans Initiative, we collaborate with high-performing, veteran-focused organizations in Orange County to improve outcomes for local veterans and their families,” said Shelley Hoss, President, OCCF. “We are proud to channel the efforts of our generous donors and partners toward the common goal of offering the most effective services to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for us.”

The funds specifically support referral services for veterans and their families, transition support programs and educational and employment support programs. OCCF also provides opportunities for the cohort of grantees to work together toward meeting common goals and objectives and improving coordination of services.

One example of this increased service coordination is the funding that was distributed to the HUB at the Tierney Center, which is bringing together high-performing nonprofit veteran-serving organizations to build their capacity, serve a broader audience and address the varying needs of OC vets all under one roof.

In the fourth year of the grant program, OCCF has once again partnered with the OC Real Estate industry to develop collaborative funding strategies. The fourth annual Orange County Real Estate Luncheon will be held on April 18, 2019 to raise critical funds for nonprofits focused on services for veterans in Orange County. Visit <https://www.oc-cf.org/ocrel/> to purchase tickets, sponsor or donate to the 2019 Orange County Real Estate Luncheon.

The partnership has awarded grants to the following veteran-serving organizations:

| Organization | Program Description |
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| 211 Orange County | To support 211 Orange County's Military and Veteran Central Clearinghouse for resources and referrals directed at veterans and their families. |
| Cal State Fullerton | To support the Veterans Resource Center, which provides student veterans with critical financial assistance through scholarship support, access to emergency grants and stipends to support participation in unpaid off-campus internship opportunities. |
| Child Guidance Center | To support Strong Families, Strong Children (SFSC), a consortium of five nonprofits (Child Guidance Center, Human Options, Children and Family Futures, Families Forward and Veterans Legal Institute) that bring together a coordinated, community-based approach to serve OC veterans, transitioning service members and their families. |
| Goodwill Industries of Orange County | To support the Goodwill's veteran employment program, which helps veterans find meaningful living wage employment. |
| Goodwill Industries of Orange County | To support the Tierney Center for Veterans Services with emergency funds for student veterans, outreach and case coordination efforts and the co-location of two collaborating nonprofits at the Tierney Center. |
| Irvine Valley College Foundation | To support the Veterans Resource Center with an onsite mental health provider, outreach/healthy activities for veteran students and access to emergency grants. |
| University of California, Irvine | To support UCI in their new role as convener for the Orange County Veteran & Military Family Collaborative (OCVMFC). |
| Saddleback College | To support the VETS program with emergency grants, opportunities to attend and participate in academic boot camps, legal services and networking events. |
| St. Jeanne de Lestonnac Free Clinic | To provide veterans with free dental exams, x-rays, cleanings, filling, extractions and root canals. |
| Strength in Support | To support the Vet to Vet Mentorship program to reach veterans and family members, engage veterans in educational and recreational outings and provide counseling to veterans and their families. |
| Volunteers of America LA | To support the Battle Buddy Bridge (B3) Peer Navigator Program, which provides direct services and referrals to connect veterans in need with other veterans and county resources who can support them. |
| Warrior Scholar Project | To enable Warriors Scholar Project to bring its one-week academic boot camp for 15 enlisted veterans to the University of California, Irvine in the summer of 2019. |
| Working Wardrobes for a New Start | To support VetNet, a comprehensive employment program designed to help veterans and their family members find meaningful living wage employment. |
| zero8hundred | To support the Transition Assistance Program, which proactively links transitioning military families, Reservists and National Guardsmen to a broad range of resources and opportunities in the community, helping them successfully transition to civilian life. |

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 \$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. Be a part of our conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). View OCCF's 2018 annual report [here](#).

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 \$2.3 million in support for nonprofits focused on serving veterans and their families. Learn more about OCVI by visiting oc-cf.org/community.

About the Orange County Real Estate Luncheon

The Orange County Real Estate Luncheon is a private sector effort to make a marked difference to the veterans' experience in Orange County. The proceeds from the luncheon are distributed through the OCCF's OCVI to Orange County veterans' organizations. Founding sponsors include Donahue Schriber, Bank of America, CBRE, Craig Realty Group, Mark IV Capital, Lyon Living, KBS Realty, Rancho Mission Viejo, and Fidelity National Title.

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