

# CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

SHINING A LIGHT ON LOCAL NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

## OC Community Foundation Holds Annual Meeting, Awards Grants

BY NB INDY STAFF

More than 600 philanthropists, business and community leaders discovered how giving can impact their communities during Orange County Community Foundation's 2018 Annual Meeting at Hotel Irvine on November 14, 2018.

OCCF President Shelley Hoss announced that Newport Beach-based foundation's assets grew to \$378 million during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

"We're pleased to announce that OCCF has granted more than \$300 million to philanthropic causes in Orange County, across the nation and around the world in the last five years alone," Hoss said. "Our work is fueled by the passions of the individuals and families we work with, along with corporate partners and community leaders."

For the fourth consecutive year, OCCF grants and scholarships reached nearly \$79 million, placing OCCF in the top two percent in grantmaking among nearly 800 U.S. community foundations.

The event kicked off with a special performance by Orange County's own Voices of Hope Children's Choir from Season 13 of America's Got Talent.

The Annual Meeting featured keynote speaker Mike Mussallem, chairman and CEO of Edwards Lifesciences. In a powerful address, Mussallem described how he combines passion and purpose to create game-changing

impact.

"It's important to look for opportunities to bring strategy and focus to support causes that are close to your heart," said Mussallem. "Working with OCCF, we've collaborated with and been inspired by others, multiplying our efforts and learning from successes and opportunities for growth in order to drive lasting results across Orange County and beyond."

### Environmental Education Grants

OCCF began the year on a philanthropic note by granting \$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 Hoss. "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, estab-

lished 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.

Grantees and projects include:

- Audubon Starr Ranch. This grant is to support a comprehensive suite of environmental education programs.
- Bolsa Chica Conservancy. This grant is to support Windows to Our Wetlands (WOW), a traveling wetlands education program.
- Bolsa Chica Land Trust. This grant is to support the 3rd grade science education program, Miracles of the Marsh, which is offered to Title I schools in OC.
- Charitable Ventures of Orange County. This grant is to support the San Geronio Outdoor Science



Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach was an OCCF grant recipient

School.

- Crystal Cove Conservancy. This grant is to support the Project CRYSTAL Community Science Program.
- Environmental Nature Center.

This grant is to support the Youth Environmental Education programs that teach science concepts and promote environmental stewardship.

- Heritage Museum of OC. This grant is to support the Volunteer Naturalist Program.

• Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy. This grant allows students to perform hands-on field work as a part of their AP Biology courses.

- Laguna Canyon

Foundation. This grant is to support the South Coast Wilderness Education Program.

- Ocean Institute. This grant enables 250 underserved students from Orange County Title I schools to participate in STEM programs.

• Orange County Coastkeeper. This grant is to support Kids Ocean Day.

- Sea and Sage Audubon Society. This grant is to support Santa Ana elementary school children to learn scientific principles.

• The Ecology Center. This grant is to support Eco Labs as a world-class children's laboratorycreative culture.

- Tides Center/Marine Education Project. This grant is to support Algerian sea lavender removal in Upper Newport Bay's marsh habitat.

For more info, visit [oc-cf.org](http://oc-cf.org).

## Mariners Ribbon Cutting for New Campus Facilities

BY NB INDY STAFF

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, Mariners Christian School hosted an all-community Ribbon Cutting event to commemorate the grand opening of their new campus facilities, including the unveiling of two spaces named to honor Leadership Campaign Donors.

The first, Argyros Center for Worship and Performing Arts, was named in recognition of a \$3 million grant received from the Argyros Family Foundation in Newport Beach. The 6,770 square foot theater has retractable and flexible seating for 900 guests, a modular performance stage, 4K projection, dynamic sound system with high-level acoustics, newest LED lighting, modern floor-to-ceiling curtain system, and a versatile adjacent pre-function/reception area.

Second is a Living Legacy Athletic Center, in recognition of a \$2 million



(L to R) Shannon Argyros, MCS student George Argyros III, Julia Argyros, George Argyros, Jr., and MCS Head of School Troy Moore cut a ceremonial ribbon in honor of the new Argyros Center for Worship and Performing Arts at MCS.

grant received from Living Legacy Foundation. This completely redesigned gymnasium features premier

hardwood flooring, a second-story spectator viewing area with fresh air accessibility, and a new Athletic

department suite of offices.

These campus features are part of a larger \$20 million Comprehensive Campaign that will transform the 31-year old private school into a thoroughly modern campus, facilitating an unparalleled educational environment where students will flourish academically and deepen their faith.

Construction for Phase One of the remodel was completed in the summer of 2018. Phase Two construction of the remodel is on track to begin June 2019.

Commenting on the Argyros Family Foundation's monumental gift to the MCS Bright Future Campaign, philanthropist and MCS Grandparent Julie Argyros of Newport Beach shared, "The Argyros Family is proud to partner with Mariners Christian School in this transformational capital project. Mariners is known for providing outstanding academic and spiritual preparation for children in our community. We applaud their determination, dedication and vision."

For more information, visit [marinerschristianschool.org](http://marinerschristianschool.org).