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**KEITH SWAYNE NAMED 2019 ORANGE COUNTY PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR**

*Lifelong Community Champion Honored at 34th Annual National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon on November 14*

**NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (November 14, 2019)** – The Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) has announced that one of its own—Keith Swayne, board member and chair from 2017 to 2019—was honored as Orange County Philanthropist of the Year at the OC Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon on November 14. In addition to OCCF, the other nonprofits that nominated Swayne for the honor include the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Orange Coast, Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach, Orange County Congregation Community Organization (OCCCO), OC Human Relations and UCI MIND.

Swayne is known for his fearless, lifelong commitment to tackling the toughest challenges in our community and for passionately striving to break down barriers and build bridges of understanding for all.

“With a warrior’s heart for the most vulnerable in our community, Keith has been a vanguard of Orange County philanthropy,” said Shelley Hoss, OCCF president and CEO. “Keith has left an unparalleled legacy in Orange County as he continues to create opportunities for those who need them most. While he could have easily enjoyed the benefits of his hard-earned success in retirement, Keith continues to up his philanthropy game at every turn.”

Swayne grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Santa Ana and was first in his family to graduate high school and attend college. He then served four years as a Navy officer, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Following his military service, Swayne’s diligence and business acumen enabled him to build a successful food company, Case Swayne, which later became a subsidiary of Bestfoods/Unilever. However, Keith never forgot his roots or his drive to build bridges for others as his own success grew. As CEO at Case Swayne, he found his greatest joy in providing economic opportunity to others—including starting a scholarship program available to the families of Case Swayne employees.

After a successful corporate career in which he served on several nonprofit boards, Swayne and his now late-wife Judy, who founded the Orange County Community Foundation in 1989, formed The Keith and Judy Swayne Family Foundation in 2005.

Since 2005, the Swayne family has made grants supporting Orange County organizations committed to creating improved opportunities and addressing inequities, including OC Human

Relations, Human Options, Boys & Girls Clubs, and OCCCO, among others. But Swayne's commitment to these organizations goes far beyond monetary support; he actively seeks to deliver more effectively on their missions by personally mentoring their leaders to increase their impact and success.

In recent years, Swayne has focused on supporting efforts to identify a cure for Alzheimer's—our aging county's most pressing issue and one that hits close to home. His wife Judy was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2006 and passed away in November 2014 after a prolonged battle with the disease. After personally experiencing the toll that Alzheimer's exacts on both patients and families, Swayne collaborated with UCI MIND to work toward a cure. With his support, UCI MIND is advancing nationally recognized research on Alzheimer's disease, related dementias and other neurological disorders.

### **About Orange County Community Foundation**

Founded in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) partners with donors, strengthens the local nonprofit sector and works to find solutions to community needs. Since its inception, OCCF has awarded more than \$630 million in grants and scholarships and ranks in the top one percent in grantmaking activity among more than 780 U.S. community foundations. For more information, visit [oc-cf.org](http://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](#).

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