



Diabetes Awareness
Run Across America
Starts in Newport
PAGE 6 | COMMUNITIES



Mother Delivers Her
Own Baby in Car on
Balboa Peninsula
PAGE 8 | LOCAL FOCUS

INSIDE
COASTAL
REAL ESTATE GUIDE

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CHARITY

SHINING A LIGHT ON LOCAL NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

OC Community Foundation Awards Grants to Veteran Organizations

The Newport Beach-based Orange County Community Foundation is partnering with the Orange County Real Estate Luncheon, an annual veteran-focused event among OC’s top real estate companies and financial institutions, to grant \$862,000 to 13 nonprofits serving military veterans and their families, according to information received from OCCF.

OCCF also announced funding for an evaluation to assess the progress of the OC Veterans Initiative and future opportunities for continued impact.

Founded in 2011, the Veterans

Initiative has received support from local donors and businesses seeking to help veterans receive the home they deserve, officials explained.

In February 2015, OCCF released the first ever study documenting that many military veterans coming home to Orange County are significantly unprepared for civilian life. This study examined chronic issues veterans face, including employment and finances, housing and homelessness, and physical and mental health.

Since that study was released, the Foundation has administered the

OCVI by directing philanthropic resources to address the gaps identified in the study, according to officials.

“We are honored to be partnering with the OC real estate community for the fifth year of this grant program to address the serious challenges local veterans and their families face,” Shelley Hoss, president and CEO of OCCF, explained in a prepared statement. “Through our Veterans Initiative, we are proud to channel the efforts of our generous donors and partners and collaborate with high-performing, veteran-focused orga-

nizations in Orange County to fuel innovative solutions to critical gaps in services and improve outcomes for local veterans and their loved ones.”

In 2020, OCCF will also partner with Harder & Co. and University of California, Irvine, to conduct a five-year OCVI program evaluation assessing the progress, and a community-wide needs assessment of current challenges and opportunities in serving OC veteran and military families, according to the OCCF statement.

For more information, visit oc-cf.org.