

A New Vision for a Just and Equitable Orange County is Taking Shape

On June 19, 2020, as Orange County and the world continued to respond to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Tammy Tumbling, decided it was time to take an important step towards equity for African Americans. In celebration of Juneteenth, with \$25,000 of her own resources, she launched the African American Alliance Fund at OCCF to raise awareness about systemic racism and support programs that advance African Americans in Orange County and surrounding communities.

The Fund will support programs designed to improve outcomes in the areas of education, health, human services, economic development and civic engagement.

Meet the Founder, Tammy Tumbling

Tammy Tumbling has embodied strength and resilience all her life. Prior to OCCF, Tumbling served at the Music Center of Los Angeles, The United Way of Greater Los Angeles and most recently as an executive at Southern California Edison. She has not only built an impressive professional resume, but a life that shows what determination and courage can do. She became a mom at age 17, entered her senior year of high school 10 days after delivering her son and traveled three hours to school on public transit. She lost her best friend and greatest champion at age 19 when her mother died suddenly from a massive stroke, assumed the guardianship of her three younger siblings and worked three jobs while earning her business degree from Cal State Dominguez Hills and later her master's in public administration.

During her journey, Tumbling encountered the barriers of systemic racism. The cards were stacked against her and her siblings, but she also had the support of friends and allies who believed in her personally and professionally. Tumbling gratefully acknowledges those allies and the nonprofit organizations that assisted her and her family in pursuing their education and careers.

On Juneteenth, Tumbling began her own legacy as an advocate and philanthropist; founding the African American Alliance Fund to forge racial equity in Orange County and neighboring communities.



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The Fund in Action: Supporting Census Outreach

Now, just a few short months after the Fund's launch, Tumbling and the OCCF team are taking action and driving change. The first opportunity? Support local efforts to obtain an accurate and complete count of Orange County's African American community in the 2020 Census.

The Fund is accelerating support to the G.R.E.E.N. (Gathering Resources to Educate and Empower through Networking) Foundation to advance this mission-critical work—to ensure that African American citizens complete the Census and understand its role in securing funding for healthcare, education, job training, public transportation and more.

Originally founded more than 20 years ago to close health disparities in cancer care for Black patients, the G.R.E.E.N. Foundation has pivoted amid the movement for social justice and fair representation toward Census outreach.

Funding from the African American Alliance Fund will support the G.R.E.E.N. Foundation's outreach efforts through phone banking, trainings and education on the role the Census has played in shaping the nation and its crucial importance going forward. To do so, the G.R.E.E.N. Foundation is providing support through Zoom meetings to promote civic engagement and encourage diversity in advocacy. Outreach messaging is capitalizing on this moment in time, a tipping point to emphasize to African Americans that completing the Census is a chance to show that their presence in our community matters.

Additionally, the group's outreach has been a boost at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional economic and social burdens for so many individuals, families and local businesses. Uniting around the Census is serving as another way to connect residents of Black communities with local business owners, churches and other organizations to come together in support of each other.

An Outpouring of Community Support

Since its launch, the Fund has garnered nearly \$125,000 in contributions. More importantly, the Fund has drawn support from individuals of every socio-economic background, community-based organizations and even corporations, including Deloitte, Southern California Edison and Cordoba Corporation. With contributions ranging from \$20 to \$25,000, supporters are giving from the heart and from a grassroots level.

As our community rallies behind the Fund, it is already fulfilling a vision to help bridge people of different backgrounds to a common cause.

As Tumbling says, “This is an opportunity to be part of the solution. This is about humanity—and choosing to do the right thing—and that crosses color lines and breaks down barriers.”

Right now, we can all take a lesson from Tammy Tumbling's book of strength and resilience, and fully embrace this opportunity to create real and sustainable change. To support the African American Alliance Fund and learn more about its impact in the community, visit oc-cf.org/AAAFund.

