

Media Contact
Ranggin Hedayat
Reveille, Inc.
949.394.1454
ranggin@reveilleinc.com



ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO HOST *PROTECT AND PRESERVE* GIVING DAY TO SUSTAIN ECOSYSTEMS IN ORANGE COUNTY

Seven Local Nonprofits Set Goal of Collectively Raising \$100,000 in 24 Hours During Pandemic

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (September 28, 2020) — On October 7, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) will host *Protect and Preserve*, a Giving Day to sustain the ecosystems of Orange County. Now in its second year, *Protect and Preserve* seeks to raise \$100,000 in 24 hours for seven local nonprofit organizations as they navigate financial and service challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The participating nonprofits include Crystal Cove Conservancy, Get Inspired, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Ocean Defenders Alliance, Ocean Institute, Orange County CoastKeeper and Pacific Marine Mammal Center.

“Even in the midst of a pandemic, the environment still needs our careful stewardship. The *Protect and Preserve* Giving Day will provide crucial support to local nonprofits working to sustain Orange County’s ecosystems and increase environmental education and conservation,” said Shelley Hoss, president and CEO, OCCF. “We are proud to support this collaborative fundraising effort to help ensure our natural resources flourish for years to come.”

COVID-19 has forced these environmental-focused nonprofits to revamp their ability to serve the public and generate the vital funds keeping them afloat. For example, although the Pacific Marine Mammal Center remains temporarily closed to the public, the need to provide animal rescue and rehabilitation services is ongoing; *Protect and Preserve* gives the opportunity to raise critically important operational funding.

This Giving Day is the latest of a series that, to date, has raised more than \$10 million for Orange County nonprofits. OCCF first challenged Orange County residents to “give where their heart lives” during the inaugural i♥oc Giving Day in 2015, raising more than \$1.8 million for 347 participating nonprofits in just 30 hours. In 2018, OCCF restructured i♥oc as an expanded opportunity for nonprofits to connect with one another in support of their shared missions.

To give online during the *Protect and Preserve* Giving Day, please visit <https://protect-and-preserve-giving-day.ocnonprofitcentral.org/>. For more information, please visit oc-cf.org/iheartoc.

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 more than \$730 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 or call 949-553-4202. Be a part of our conversation on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). View OCCF’s 2019 annual report [here](#).

###