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UNEMPLOYMENT IN ORANGE COUNTY INCREASED 283% IN PAST YEAR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT A MUST FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

**Orange County Community Foundation’s “The Future Is Working” Giving Day
Seeks to Raise \$90,000 to Develop a Stronger Workforce in the County**

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (March 16, 2021) — As unemployment and uncertainty about job security continue due to the widespread impacts of COVID-19, the [Orange County Community Foundation](#) (OCCF) is hosting [The Future is Working](#) – a collaborative Giving Day on March 25 to bolster workforce opportunities in Orange County. The 24-hour online effort brings together 11 nonprofits that offer programs and services to help remove barriers to employment, create pathways to success for vulnerable communities, and build a flexible and resilient workforce.

The global health pandemic has dramatically impacted our economy and workforce. AP News recently reported¹ that California, the nation’s most populous state, has processed more than 16 million unemployment benefit claims since March 2020. Locally, the [2020-2021 Orange County Community Indicators Report](#) reveals that Orange County unemployment skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic and remains at historically high levels with a reduction of nearly 195,000 jobs as of July 2020 – translating to a 283% increase in total unemployment. Research also shows that those job losses have had a larger impact on our most vulnerable populations. Nearly 90,000 of the county’s lost jobs were in the leisure, hospitality, or retail sectors – sectors that traditionally employ more people who are immigrants and/or people of color².

The pandemic has prompted a heightened urgency to address workforce development – and *The Future is Working* collaborative Giving Day will support 11 Orange-County based nonprofits in continuing to help employers, workers, students, and the most vulnerable residents adjust to rapidly changing economic conditions. Participating nonprofits include, [Chrysalis](#); [CIELO](#); [Community Action Partnership Orange County](#); [Hart Community Homes, Inc.](#); [High School, Inc.](#); [Kherut](#); [JVS SoCal](#); [Orange County Conservation Corps](#); [Taller San Jose Hope Builders](#); [Youth Employment Service](#); and [Vital Link](#) – all leaders in workforce development.

“*The Future is Working* Giving Day is a critical opportunity to invest in the long-term health and vitality of our region by building pathways to meaningful employment,” said Shelley Hoss, president and CEO of the Orange County Community Foundation. “The challenge ahead for the philanthropic community is how we

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/gavin-newsom-california-coronavirus-pandemic-65fdd1469f9962b11760c8f2fc1a8095>

² <https://charitableventuresoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/OCCRF-Evaluation-Report-August-Final.pdf>

respond to the continuing employment crisis and support the nonprofits that are bolstering equitable opportunity for Orange County’s workforce.”

The Future is Working campaign is part of OCCF’s iheartOC Collaborative Giving Days, an annual initiative that designates 10 cause-specific giving days around community issues. The online giving model matches OC nonprofits with shared missions – from workforce development and homelessness to preserving ecosystems and supporting local veterans – to gain momentum on one shared day and leverage a combined outreach effort for collective success. In 2020, the 10 days secured support from 6,476 donors and raised a record \$3.2 million for 98 nonprofits. Since its start in 2015, OCCF’s Collaborative Giving Days have raised more than \$10 million for Orange County nonprofits.

To give online during the 24-hour Giving Day, please visit the-future-is-working-giving-day.ocnonprofitcentral.org. For more information about Orange County Community Foundation Collaborative Giving Days, please visit oc-cf.org/givingdays.

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 nearly \$780 million in grants and scholarships, placing the organization in the top two percent in grantmaking among 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 2020 annual report [here](#).

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