

# FAMILIES FORWARD

---

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Sarah Stokes  
Marketing Specialist  
sstokes@families-forward.org  
(949) 379-8325

**ORANGE COUNTY OPENED THEIR HEARTS TO HELP FAMILIES FORWARD SUPPORT THE HOMELESS, RAISING A RECORD-BREAKING \$832,068 IN ONLY 24 HOURS**

*Launched by the Orange County Community Foundation, Families Forward Partnered With 16 Fellow Nonprofits to Host Help Them Home Giving Day*

**IRVINE, Calif., (April 26, 2019)** — Families Forward and 16 fellow nonprofits partnered with the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) to host *Help Them Home*, a Giving Day for Orange County's homeless, on April 24. The 24-hour online effort raised \$832,068 with the participation of more than 1,052 donors for local organizations committed to providing resources and relief for the nearly 7,000 individuals who are homeless in Orange County.

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the generosity and support of our donors for Giving Day 2019," said Margie Wakeham, CEO Families Forward. "With their help, we unlocked two matching gifts totaling \$50,000 from Pacific Premier Bank and the Families Forward Board of Directors, bringing our total dollars raised to \$151,368."

The 17 participating nonprofits included Casa Teresa, Families Forward, Thomas House Shelter, HIS House, Pathways of Hope, Build Futures, WISEPlace, Mercy House, Grandma's House of Hope, Friendship Shelter, FAM Family Assistance Ministries, City Net, Family Promise of Orange County, South County Outreach, Project Hope Alliance, HomeAid Orange County and SPIN (Serving People In Need).

The Orange County Community Foundation powered the *Help Them Home* campaign by providing seed funding to support the marketing assets, campaign resources and collaborative partnerships. The *Help Them Home* Giving Day is part of a series that will take place in Orange County throughout 2019 as part of OCCF's Collaborative Giving Day initiative to boost the capacity of local nonprofits to meet the community's needs.

"The *Help Them Home* campaign was once again a resounding success, raising critical funds for Orange County's homeless individuals and families," said Shelley Hoss, president, OCCF. "We are proud to support the efforts of our local community and nonprofits as they join forces to tackle some of the most critical issues facing our county."

OCCF first challenged Orange County residents to “give where their heart lives” during the inaugural iheartoc Giving Day in 2015, raising more than \$1.8 million through 6,000 gifts to 347 participating nonprofits in just 30 hours. OCCF nearly doubled those results in 2016 during the second annual iheartoc Giving Day, receiving 7,000 contributions totaling \$3.2 million for 418 participating nonprofits. In 2017, OCCF re-envisioned iheartoc as an expanded opportunity for nonprofits to connect with one another in support of their shared missions. The seven collaborative Giving Days held in 2018 raised a total of \$1.4 million for local organizations.

Additional collaborative Giving Days will be announced over the coming year. For more information, please visit [oc-cf.org/iheartoc](http://oc-cf.org/iheartoc).

### **About Families Forward**

Since 1984, Families Forward has worked with families to help them achieve self-sufficiency through housing, food, counseling, career coaching, education, and other support services. Operating with a guiding principal of support with accountability, last year Families Forward improved the lives of more than 11,000 children and adults by providing safety-net services through the framework of our values: Dignity, Empowerment, Accountability, Community Spirit and Hope. For more information about Families Forward please contact us at 949-552-2727 or visit [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org).

### **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 \$600 million in grants and scholarships and ranks in the top two 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](#).

###