

# FAMILIES FORWARD

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FAMILIES FORWARD PARTNERS WITH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO HOST THIRD ANNUAL “HELP THEM HOME: A GIVING DAY FOR ORANGE COUNTY’S HOMELESS”**

*Families Forward Joins 17 Other Nonprofits Addressing a Range of Needs, Including COVID-19 Impact, to Collectively Raise \$700,000 for Homeless Programs*

**IRVINE, Calif. (April 22, 2020)** — Families Forward will partner with the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) and 17 colleague nonprofits on April 22 to host *Help Them Home*, a Giving Day for Orange County’s homeless. In its third year, *Help Them Home* aims to raise \$700,000 for a variety of organizations that serve the local homeless population’s greatest needs and the county’s most urgent demands. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, nonprofits are facing unprecedented challenges in their ability to deliver services due to operational changes and reduced funding. This Giving Day is an important opportunity for our community to collectively support the organizations serving the county’s vulnerable homeless population.

“As we stand together to face COVID-19, it becomes more important than ever before to support our nonprofit sector and the vulnerable populations they serve, including our homeless neighbors,” said Shelley Hoss, president and CEO, OCCF. “We are proud to support the Help Them Home Giving Day. It’s an incredible opportunity for our generous philanthropic community to stand behind the nonprofits working tirelessly to combat homelessness.”

The *Help Them Home* campaign is part of a bold initiative by OCCF to enhance the capacity of local nonprofits through a series of Collaborative Giving Days that launched in 2018. Nonprofits with shared missions are invited to partner to boost collective fundraising for their causes.

“Giving Day has become one of the most exciting days of the year for us at Families Forward,” said Madelynn Hirneise, CEO, Families Forward. “Last year, thanks to our generous donors and matches from Pacific Premier Bank and our Board of Directors, we raised more than \$150,000 in just 24 hours. This year, with the financial uncertainty facing families in Orange County due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are seeing an unprecedented increase in need. Together, we can provide a beacon of hope to the most vulnerable in our community.”

The 18 nonprofits participating in the *Help Them Home* Giving Day include:

- Build Futures—Providing housing for homeless youth
- Casa Teresa—Providing support for pregnant homeless women
- City Net—Working to end street-level homelessness
- Colette’s House/Children’s Home—Supporting homeless single women and their children
- Families Forward—Helping families regain economic independence
- Family Assistance Ministries—Providing prevention-focused support for families to move from dependency to self-sufficiency
- Family Promise of Orange County—Stabilizing families through housing programs and more
- Friendship Shelter—Bridging housing, emergency shelter and permanent housing
- Grandma’s House of Hope—Providing housing, food and trauma-informed supportive services to women and children

- H.I.S. (Homeless Intervention Shelter) House—Offering a transitional living center
- HomeAid Orange County—Providing housing and community outreach
- Mercy House—Offering emergency shelter and temporary and permanent housing
- Pathways of Hope—Providing access to food, shelter and housing for those experiencing hunger and homelessness in North Orange County
- South County Outreach—Addressing hunger and homelessness
- SPIN (Serving People In Need)—Serving those in need from crisis to self-sufficiency through housing assistance and street services
- StandUp for Kids—Working to break the cycle of youth homelessness
- Thomas House Family Shelter—Providing transitional services, life skills and workforce development and more
- WISEPlace—Transforming women from homelessness to self-reliance through food, shelter, financial empowerment and employment assistance.

This Giving Day is the latest of a series that, to date, has raised more than \$8 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. In 2019, the eight collaborative Giving Days raised more than \$1.6 million to benefit local organizations.

To give online during the *Help Them Home* Giving Day, please visit [help-them-home-giving-day.ocnonprofitcentral.org](http://help-them-home-giving-day.ocnonprofitcentral.org). 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 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 \$690 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 2019 annual report [here](#).

#### **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 nearly 10,000 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).

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