



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Community Action Partnership of Orange County Receives \$5,000 Grant from the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation**

**Garden Grove, CA – October 11, 2018** – Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) was recently awarded a grant totaling \$5,000 from The Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation for the project The Giving Farm – Sprouts of Hope. The grant will go towards CAP OC's latest collaborative, The Giving Farm, in partnership with Westminster High School and Solutions for Urban Agriculture.

The Giving Farm aligns with the Sprouts Foundation focus area by increasing access to fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables that will improve food security and health of underserved communities. The Giving Farm's goals are to 1) Increase the OC Food Bank's capacity to provide fresh produce to low-income families, youth, and seniors; 2) Promote nutrition education efforts in low-income neighborhoods; and 3) Provide a learning experience on urban agricultural techniques and resiliency for students and volunteers.

Produce grown at The Giving Farm is donated to the OC Food Bank, a program of CAP OC. The OC Food Bank's main purpose is to reduce food insecurity and provide hunger relief for low-income communities.

An estimated 330,000 (unduplicated) people live in poverty in Orange County, and one in six children is at risk of hunger each day. Many of those affected are the working poor, who struggle to support their families in a county that is ranked among the Top 20 most expensive places to live in the nation (Forbes.com). The communities we serve suffer from high rates of poverty, low-wages, unemployment and crime. Access to essential services is often hampered due to insufficient income, transportation obstacles, and lack of information about available resources. Fiscal cuts to safety-net services have also presented a challenge, as they result in fewer resources for Orange County's poor and disadvantaged populations.

The typical client served by this project will be low-income, minority residents living in older, underserved neighborhoods. It is likely that clients will be Latino-American or Vietnamese-American, due to the dramatic growth of this population in Orange County. This project will serve an additional 1,000 low-income individuals; Participants will receive a bag of fresh fruits/vegetables along with health and nutrition education

Mark Lowry, CAP OC's Director of the OC Food Bank, notes that: "This is the first grant award from Sprouts to CAP OC on behalf of our efforts in combating food insecurity in Orange County and we look forward to an ongoing partnership in support of our activities, including an upcoming opportunity for Sprouts employees to volunteer at The Giving Farm."

*With leadership and results dating back to 1965, Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) has evolved into one of Orange County's most comprehensive anti-hunger and poverty relief organization. CAP OC's aim is to make a positive impact in people's lives by helping them meet basic needs and strengthen their support system. Our position within Orange County allows us to identify neighborhood concerns and find unique solutions. We have a stake in the health of our community and have the ability to create real change in the lives of low-income children, families, senior, and veterans. By acting as a resource for ending hunger and poverty, our organization improves the health of our community. We mobilize and direct resources to programs that assist, educate and promote self-sufficiency.*

***An Orange County Where All Community Members Attain Self-Sufficiency***

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