



THE
COMMUNICATOR

FALL INTO WINTER 2024

**EMPOWERING
FAMILIES**

COMMUNITY ACTION WORKS

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

As summer quickly comes to a close, our work at Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) begins to ramp up in anticipation of our busiest season. While I look towards the holidays with excitement like so many do, I do so sympathetically, as I am keenly aware of what the holiday season means for our most vulnerable community members.

While Orange County families gather for a meal and unwrap gifts under the tree later this year, many will not. Those that we serve may not have the means to prepare a large meal or purchase gifts for their little ones. Others may not have family members to gather with, marking a distinctly different holiday experience.

This is why our work is so important. Through holiday initiatives like National Family Volunteer Day and Hope for the Holidays our community gathers to uplift those searching for support. From food boxes to turkey drives and gift donations, I am always humbled by the efforts our community makes to ensure every family has a special holiday season.

With Gratitude and In Service,



Gregory C. Scott
President & CEO
Community Action Partnership of Orange County

As you continue reading, you will find details about how you can support our efforts this holiday season and beyond. You will also read about dynamic new approaches to addressing the root causes of poverty and the significant funding we have received to maintain the OC Diaper Bank through 2026.

Our work is essential and continues to serve as an incredible reminder of the impact community has. Through partnerships and collective action, we are reaching new levels of support, providing a variety of services to stabilize, sustain, and empower individuals in their pursuit for a better tomorrow.

With all this work, I continue to look towards the future with optimism and am confident that through our end-of-year efforts we can ensure every family has a holiday celebration free of financial stressors and uncertainty.

Thank you for your continued support of our work and the neighborhoods we serve. This holiday season and always, we are grateful for you.

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THE OC DIAPER BANK CELEBRATES FUNDING SUCCESS

We are proud to share that with the generous support of OC Diaper Bank champions, Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) has received nearly \$2.5 million to keep the OC Diaper Bank operating at capacity through June 30, 2026. As a crucial safety net for vulnerable families, the OC Diaper Bank has received significant community support from the California Legislature, the Sun Family Foundation, and the County of Orange to ensure operations continue to support more than 80 distribution partners, serving 10,000 children each month.

CAP OC left no stone unturned in our efforts to save the OC Diaper Bank as budget shortfalls at the state level stifled plans of continued service. Thanks to incredible state-level advocacy from Senator Tom Umberg and Assemblymember Avelino Valencia, the state of California dedicated \$9 million in funding to be allocated to 11 diaper banks across the state, providing nearly \$820,000 to the OC Diaper Bank to fund operations for a two year period.

In order to sustain the same level of capacity, it was important to secure additional funds. Our dedicated advocacy campaign resulted in an outpour of support, receiving \$1 million from the Sun Family Foundation, \$500,000 in discretionary funding from Orange County Supervisors Don Wagner and an additional \$100,000 from Supervisor Doug Chaffee, and \$200,000 from First 5 Orange County.

While this funding ensures continued services for the next two years, our advocacy and education campaigns

are just getting started. CAP OC is actively seeking out three possible solutions to ensure the ongoing operations of the OC Diaper Bank. The first avenue we are advocating for is to establish the Diaper Bank Network as an official state program. This effort would create a new line item in the state budget, reducing the likelihood of the program being cut in the future. Additionally, CAP OC is exploring options to include diapers as an eligible benefit for MediCal recipients. Our hope is that by securing this resource as a benefit, our current diaper bank network can serve as no-cost providers, routing costs through MediCal. Lastly, outside of legislative solutions, we will continue to work alongside our dedicated partners, including the Sun Family Foundation and First 5 OC, to help raise awareness and philanthropic support for this critical need.

As we continue efforts for long-term funding solutions, we share our deepest appreciation for the incredible support we have received from Senator Tom Umberg, Assemblymember Avelino Valencia, OC Supervisors Wagner and Chaffee, the Sun Family Foundation and First 5. Their generous support has ensured an additional two years of full-capacity diaper distribution through the OC Diaper Bank. As our work continues, we hope to find long-term funding solutions to sustain the OC Diaper Bank Program and support young families across Southern California.

If you'd like to get involved in supporting the OC Diaper Bank, please contact LaShanda Maze at LMaze@capoc.org.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS 2024

Spread joy this winter through Hope for the Holidays! No matter your giving level, your contributions spark hope in the lives of our most vulnerable community members.

Support this year's efforts through:



ADOPT A FAMILY

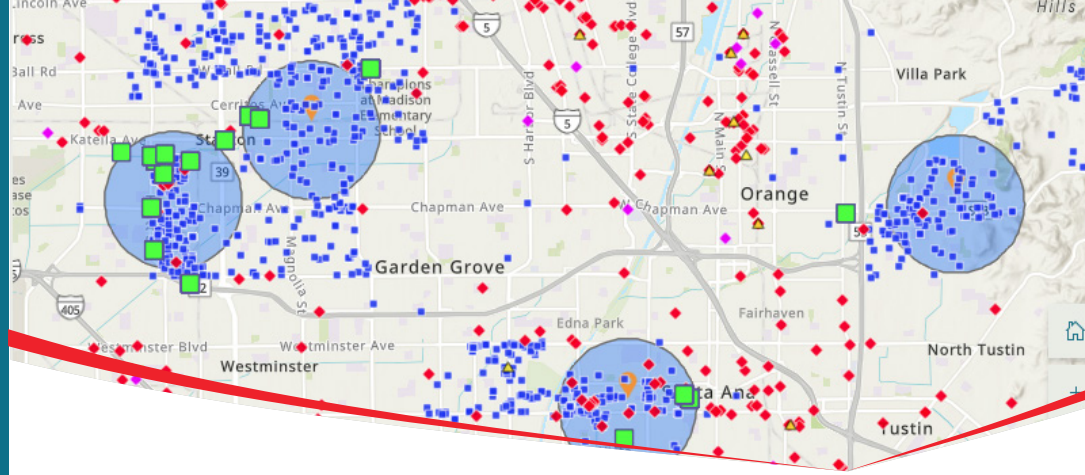
Help us provide holiday gifts to ensure every Orange County family has a memorable celebration.



VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVES

Fill the holiday table by organizing a virtual food drive in support of the OC Food Bank.

FOR MORE WAYS TO GIVE
VISIT WWW.CAPOC.ORG/HOPE



UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS

Community Action Partnership of Orange County's (CAP OC) Energy and Environmental Services (EES) Department is conducting pivotal research to better understand environmental injustices impacting the communities we serve. Through a three phase Health Equity Zones (HEZ) initiative that began in 2022, our team has undertaken significant research to achieve healthy, systemic changes at the local level.

CAP OC has identified zones of interest around its four physical service areas: three family resource centers and its main office. These regions not only represent four of our five top-served cities agency-wide, but also the top five cities that benefit from our Weatherization program, providing a direct link between our services and our research.

This summer the EES Department finalized findings related to Phase One of the HEZ initiative, understanding socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities. By utilizing data from various public resources including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Emissions Inventory, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, and the

Department of Toxic Substance Control, we have identified the pollution sources nearest each HEZ and the burden of pollution in each area.

What we found was striking. After a thorough analysis, results indicated that all four HEZs were disproportionately exposed to toxic releases from facilities or manufacturing as well as particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns. To supplement these findings, we have installed air monitoring equipment at the Southwest Community Center (SWCC) to measure the level of pollution inside and outside our center to better understand our community's risk.

As we continue this crucial research and enter Phase Two, researching the history of Orange County's development of various industries in disadvantaged communities, we hope to use these findings to inform our services. Through our EES programs, we can take active steps to alleviate environmental hazards many neighborhoods may be exposed to, working towards healthier outcomes for our entire community.



JOIN US IN THE SEASON OF GIVING **BECOME A COMMUNITY PARTNER!**

From the OC Food Bank to the Giving Farm, our corporate and community volunteers spark incredible change through collective action.

Contact Alexandra Houston at ahouston@capoc.org to schedule your next day of giving before the end of the year.



A SUMMER OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

While class was out for the summer, our Youth Services team was incredibly active, bringing insightful lessons to our Family Resource Center (FRC) youth.

To kick off the summer, we hosted our second annual Full STEAM Ahead conference, where teens and young adults engaged with our dynamic career panelists and speakers to learn about everything from careers in music and art to weatherization and utilities.

Following the conference, our teens took part in listening sessions about local community issues while our younger participants focused on building their own STEAM park. Both activities sparked curiosity and creativity in our youth, encouraging them to challenge their perspectives and work together to reach a collective outcome.

In addition to these activities, the summer's Empowered to Thrive curriculum focused on identity building using the My S.H.A.P.E. framework. This program, which has previously been used to help underserved teens explore who they are and what career they'd like to explore, incorporated weekly topics including specific intelligences, heart, abilities, personality, and experience.

Using engaging lessons and demonstrations, our teens and youth wrapped up their summer with a greater understanding of who they are and where they may want to go. As we shift into fall programming, we look forward to watching each of our participants reach their personal and professional goals.

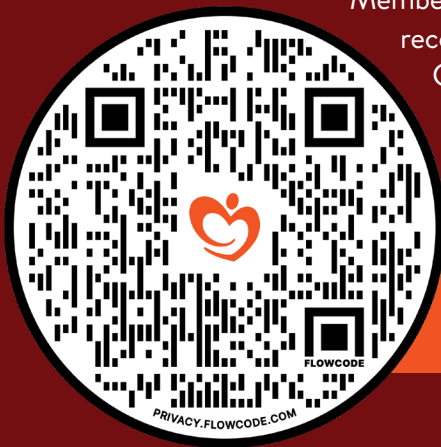


GIVE MONTHLY WITH THE HUGGY HEART CLUB



When you join, you are directly helping local families and neighbors get the resources they need to survive and thrive. No matter the donation size, every contribution makes a lasting impact in our mission to eliminate poverty in Orange County.

Members also receive invitations to exclusive volunteer events, special recognition in our newsletters and an invitation to our annual Huggy Heart Club Hang Out with our President & CEO Gregory C. Scott.



START GIVING TODAY!

www.capoc.org/monthly-recurring

YOUR 2024 IMPACT SO FAR



4.2 M Diapers provided to families



14.4 M Meals provided by the OC Food Bank



234 Homes improved through weatherization services



370 Individuals participated in our Financial Empowerment programs

*Statistics as of August 31, 2024

SUPPORTING STUDENT'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our 2024 Backpacks for Success campaign was incredibly impactful for many of our young community members. In collaboration with 30 community partners across Orange County, we successfully distributed 2,135 backpacks ahead of the new school year.

Thanks to the generosity of our match donor as well as community partners and supporters, young students can confidently start the school year with the tools needed to succeed in and out of the classroom.

During our distributions, we heard from many local parents, including Sara* who shared that, "Getting these backpacks has lifted a huge weight off our shoulders. Now our kids can walk into school with confidence, just like everyone else. We're so grateful for this support!" and Maria* who spoke about her current obstacles shared that, "I was under a lot of pressure, but this help was a huge relief".

We are proud to support Orange County families in the hopes of a brighter future. With the support of Backpacks for Success every student can thrive in and out of the classroom, feeling confident in themselves and ready to reach their goals. Thank you to everyone who supported this year's impactful campaign!

*Pseudonym used





WELCOMING VOLUNTEERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

The OC Food Bank has been bustling with activity! As a leader in community action, we were thrilled to welcome groups of volunteers from Japan, Taiwan, and Israel to learn about charitable work in America. Their engagement brought an international focus to our work, emphasizing the level of poverty awareness realized across the world.

Our local projects also took shape, thanks to generous support of Disneyland Resort. Together, with Student Veterans of America, our Giving Farm welcomed volunteers for a day of action, building equipment, making farm improvements, and harvesting summer produce.

We are proud to welcome volunteers from near and far in our continued efforts to eliminate poverty in Orange County. If you would like to get involved, please visit www.capoc.org/volunteer to learn about available opportunities.

THE OC HUNGER ALLIANCE BRINGS IN ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

The OC Hunger Alliance is leading the fight to address food insecurity through a dynamic partnership between Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC), Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, and Abound Food Care. Focusing on collaboration, instead of competition, these three agencies are actively seeking new ways to optimize their collective efforts.

In fact, earlier this year, the Alliance published an in-depth report outlining the need for food security, nutrition and access in Orange County with the support of Charitable Ventures. Receiving data from more than 189 community organizations and program participants, the report outlined important information about Orange County's food systems, highlighting areas of concern and opportunities for improvement. As Alliance members reviewed data and explored solutions, the findings coalesced into three high level recommendations that will shape the Alliance's upcoming work: promote food choice, champion

food benefit awareness and access, and strengthen systems of care.

To support these recommendations and seek more widespread action, the OC Hunger Alliance has also enhanced its member base, creating a steering committee of 5 new members from Orange County United Way, CalOptima Health, the Orange County Social Services Agency, Meals on Wheels OC, and OC Grantmakers. These additional organizations will not only provide insight into other service areas and populations, but bring new transformative ideas, working together to address food insecurity and poverty, more broadly.

As the OC Hunger Alliance continues to tackle obstacles of food security, it hopes that this new research will enhance its efforts to address poverty across service areas. Additionally, through expansion, leaders will be focused on new approaches, partnerships, and strategies to increase each organization's capacity and efficiency, working together towards a hunger-free Orange County.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Contributions listed are from **April 1st, 2024 – August 31st, 2024** and are \$250 and above. The Philanthropy department has done our best to ensure accuracy. If you have questions or concerns, please contact LMaze@capoc.org.

Thank you for your incredible support of Community Action Partnership of Orange County!

President's Circle

\$100,000+

Kia
Pacific Life Foundation

Champions

\$99,999 - 50,000

84VikingsFund
Wells Fargo Foundation
Wilson W. Phelps Foundation

Leaders

\$49,999 - \$25,000

Jeffrey Griffith

Advocates

\$24,999 - \$10,000

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Anaheim Ducks
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
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Fluor Corporation
Lineage Foundation For Good
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The Huggy Heart club is a monthly giving group who provide ongoing support to help sustain our operations.

Learn more at capoc.org/huggy-heartclub

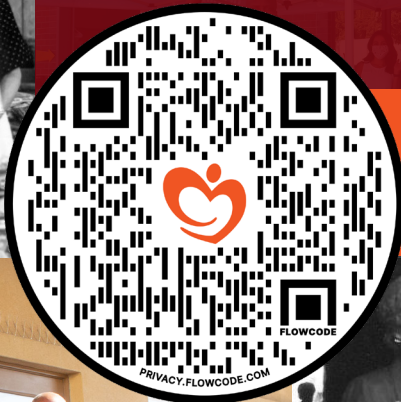


CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF IMPACT IN ORANGE COUNTY

For six decades, Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) has been a pillar of support, meeting the urgent needs of our community—whether it's providing food to the hungry, offering rent and utility assistance, or guiding families toward long-term stability. Together, we are breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

As we approach our 60th anniversary in 2025, we celebrate the progress we've made with your unwavering support. But there is still so much more we can accomplish. We invite you to be part of this momentous milestone—whether by volunteering, donating, or becoming an advocate for change.

Join us in shaping the next 60 years of community impact. Together, we can ensure every family has the opportunity to thrive.



GET INVOLVED TODAY!

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THIS IS WHERE POVERTY ENDS

mission

We seek to **end and prevent poverty** by stabilizing, sustaining and empowering people with the resources they need **when they need them**. By forging strategic partnerships, we form a powerful force to improve our community.

vision

We see generations of healthy communities where **poverty ceases to exist**.

HELP US TO END POVERTY IN ORANGE COUNTY. VISIT CAPOC.ORG TODAY AND HELP WHERE YOU CAN.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW
OUR **GIVING GUIDE A-Z**

