

Annual Report

2023-2024



Our Mission

To strive for equity for our youth by valuing and supporting the life they envision.



Our Vision

We envision a community where every youth thrives.

Our Values

Respect	I accept you for who you are.
Trust	You are safe here.
Empathy	I am here with you to share what you feel.
Inclusion	I value you and what you contribute.
Advocacy	I will amplify your voice. I will fight for you.

Letter from the CEO

The 23-24 fiscal year brought the continued challenge of meeting the increasing needs of teens and young adults in Orange County. The 2024 Orange County Point-in-Time Count reported a 30% increase in the homelessness of transitional-aged youth (ages 18-24). This was not a shock to us, as we experienced a similar increase in the number of visitors to our Orangewood Foundation Drop-In Resource Center seeking safe, stable housing and other resources. Not only is the number of visitors higher, but their needs are more significant and complex.

Thankfully, we have been able to meet these higher needs due to the commitment of all of you - our generous donors, volunteers and partners. You have continued to step up to ensure Orangewood Foundation has the resources required to support all the needs of our young people. The 2024 Ambassador Celebration focused on one particular group of our supporters - the dozens of nonprofit partners that contribute their expertise and resources to fulfilling our mission, while simultaneously fulfilling their own mission. While Orangewood Foundation strives to be a one-stop shop for our youth, we rely on our nonprofit partners to fill in specific service gaps. We are grateful for their willingness to work together to make our community better and stronger.

We launched a refresh of our Strategic Plan in the spring of 2024 and are excited about the course we are charting for our organization. Our 2020 Strategic Plan was primarily **internally focused** as we made investments in our operations, systems and infrastructure to lay a solid foundation for growth in the future. For example, our 5-year initiative to implement a new case management system to capture staff/youth interactions, goals and outcomes in all our programs is coming to a close. We are thrilled that we will soon have comprehensive program data and outcomes to share with our "investors" and also inform us of the effectiveness of the programs and services we offer. Now that our stronger organizational foundation is in place, our new Strategic Plan is much more ambitious and **externally focused**, with the goal of Orangewood Foundation having a more significant impact on altering the landscape for vulnerable teens and young adults in Orange County. We will look to expand housing opportunities for our youth, ramp up our advocacy and research efforts, become a more influential community thought leader, and amplify the impact of the work we already do. And of course, we will continue to invest in the personal and professional development of our incredible Orangewood team that is so committed to serving our youth.

Once again, we are so grateful for the generosity of the thousands of different Orangewood Foundation supporters that all contribute to the care and well-being of those we serve. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you over the next few years to implement our new Strategic Plan.



Chris Simonsen
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Christian E. Simonsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a dark blue background.

The Power of Partnerships

Our team at Orangewood Foundation does such amazing work with our young people. But there are also so many others that are behind the scenes that partner with us to maximize the impact we can have - generous individuals and foundations, hundreds of volunteers, caring companies that engage their employees and employ our youth, State and County agencies that fund some of our programs.

And there is another type of valuable partner... **fellow nonprofit organizations.**

Orangewood has embraced the Networked Nonprofit philosophy - partnering with other nonprofits to fulfill the missions of both organizations simultaneously. Instead of a nonprofit trying to be as large as possible, leveraging partnerships with other nonprofits is a better way to accelerate and grow the impact on those we serve. And over the past five years, we have seen the positive impact it is having on our youth.

What young people love the most about Orangewood is getting all their needs met by one organization, one safe place where they trust the staff and are not judged by them. But, WE do not do it all! We engage trusted nonprofit partners that are experts in their fields to fill in the gaps. When Orangewood staff recommend and introduce a youth to our nonprofit partners, trust is immediately built, and they are much more open to receiving services from them.

Being a networked nonprofit also enhances the stewardship of valuable donor dollars. Often times, items that our youth need can be provided by partners, including nonprofits, instead of being purchased by Orangewood. Last year, we served almost 10,000 meals in our kitchen and the majority of that food was donated by volunteers, food retailers, and nonprofit partners.

At Orangewood, we believe that donors love to see collaboration between nonprofits to leverage all available resources in the community. Together, we can accomplish so much!

Our Program Partners

- Eastside Church
- Bracken's Kitchen
- Laguna Playhouse
- UC Irvine
- Hani
- PHN
- Assistance League
- Harm Reduction Institute
- Waymakers
- Young Lives Redeemed
- Radiant Futures
- Salvation Army
- Vanguard University
- OC Probation
- OC United Way
- Farmers and Merchants Bank
- Planned Parenthood
- Segerstrom Center for the Arts
- Pretend City
- OCDE
- Doing Good Works/Foster Greatness
- READY Set OC
- Pathways of Hope
- South County Outreach
- Commercial Bank of California
- Golden West College
- Santa Ana College
- Fullerton College
- California State University Fullerton
- Irvine Valley College
- Saddleback College
- Santiago Canyon College
- Orange Coast College
- Mt. SAC
- Cypress College
- Cerritos College
- Coastline College
- OC Conservation Corps
- OC Children's Therapeutic Arts
- Stand Up For Kids
- Career Ignition
- Cielo
- Seneca Family of Agencies
- Laura's House
- Family Builders
- Higher Ground
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- OC Mecca
- Friends and Family Center
- Moxi3
- School's First
- In-N-Out
- OC Credit Union
- First Citizens Bank
- Jeff Gramp
- Saddleback Church
- Build Futures
- Neutral Ground/Nati House
- Tustin Temporary Shelter
- Yale Shelter/E Path
- Underground Ground Grit
- Fly Livin
- Project Kinship
- Hope Builders
- Goodwill Young Adult Life Launch
- Pathways Academy Adult Education
- Covenant House
- City Net
- OC Social Services Agency

Highlights



We are committed to providing a range of housing options for young people - from emergency and transitional housing to permanent placements, as well as homelessness prevention and emergency rental assistance.

- ✓ This past year, we partnered with South County Outreach **to provide 10 beds** dedicated for young adults who are pursuing their education through college or trade school.
- ✓ Through our Housing Independent Living Program (HILP), we partner with United Way Welcome Home OC to help secure housing for young adults. **This past year 75 youth found housing utilizing a HUD voucher.**
- ✓ Housing Navigation **secured emergency housing for 98 young people.**
- ✓ And, **we launched CalOptima's CalAIM program** (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal), which strives to revolutionize healthcare services through supporting unhoused individuals and families. This allows us to be at the forefront of transformative change in how we support young people with housing.



The Lyon Workforce Academy (LWA) **continues to expand and provide more career opportunities for young adults.** This year, 24 young adults have participated in LWA and 12 have graduated from the program with stable careers. We now have over 16 corporate partners benefitting from this program, such as Goodwill Industries, Cricket Wireless, Olson Company, and Hyatt Regency.



Earlier this year, we received word that the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) and the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Housing Supplement were in danger of being cut from the State budget. These programs provide critical support for foster youth, and if funding were to be eliminated, these young people would be at risk of homelessness. In partnership with John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY), our community and staff rallied to successfully maintain this funding, **ensuring our young adults will have the resources they need to secure and maintain housing.**



This past May, we had a major milestone for the Youth Connected Program - **our first high school graduate!** This remarkable teen, part of our program for two and a half years, is now in college after graduating from Samueli Academy. What's even more remarkable? They're moving in with their resource family full-time. Despite the odds, with only 53% of teens in foster care graduating on time, this success story proves the incredible impact our collaborative foster care model can have.

Our Impact

1,647

young people served

52

Young Adult Court participants working towards a felony free future

1,183

young people visited the Orangewood Resource Center 9,465 times

25

survivors of trafficking found a safe place to live and recover at Lighthouse Transitional Housing

9,834

hot meals served to 982 young people

251

youth experiencing or at-risk of trafficking served by Project Choice, a 96% increase

2,281

grocery bags/gift cards distributed

416

young people found stable housing, more than double the prior year

\$302,120

provided for emergency housing stabilization and move-in expenses

10

mothers and their children found safe housing and a caring community at Casa de Rosemary

340

young adults attended Independent Living workshops to gain life skills

13

youth found stability with our foster family agency, Youth Connected Program

\$681,587

awarded to support education, workforce development, and lifelong learning through grants, scholarships, and the Advanced Studies Fund



Three years ago, I aged out of the foster care system and was left homeless. Without a stable place to call home, I have been doing my best to navigate the world as a single mother. During my time without a permanent place to call home, I received a referral through social services to be placed on a waitlist for housing vouchers. This opportunity could not have come at a better time, as my daughter and I were living out of my car.

After patiently waiting, I finally received my voucher for an apartment in December 2023. I was a little bit nervous about how everything would turn out. I had never had my own apartment and I was not sure how the whole process worked. It was during this time, I was introduced and linked to Orangewood Foundation. It was explained that I would have case management for housing and they were there to provide assistance during the entire three-year period of my voucher.

In the past it has always been difficult for me to ask for help. During my apartment search experience, there were several unforeseen challenges, unexpected expenses, rejections and delays that caused frustration and uncertainty. In my past, some of these challenges would have been reasons for me to have given up on the whole thing. However, I kept pushing forward, motivated by the reminder of everything I have gone through and experienced in life. I had finally reached this point where I knew me and my daughter deserved better.

I utilized the services provided to me and worked with Orangewood Foundation for support. It was with their assistance and the help of United Way Welcome Home OC that I was able to obtain my first apartment in February 2024. I am grateful for the opportunity to receive a housing voucher and I really appreciate the help of Orangewood Foundation. From rental assistance, purchasing furniture, mentorship, and grocery assistance, all the support has given me a stepping stone I really needed. I am now reaching a position where I can start to focus on pursuing my nursing career and create a better opportunity for me and my daughter.

Mariah C.

Financials



Orangewood Foundation continues to hold a 4-star rating with Charity Navigator for **financial transparency, metrics, and accountability.**

REVENUE

Individuals	\$8,094,650
Corporations	\$684,781
Foundations	\$1,292,500
Events	\$1,394,591
Government	\$5,349,142
Investment Income	\$3,086,777
Other	\$1,279,102
Total \$	\$21,181,543

EXPENSES

Fundraising	\$1,103,762
Management & General	\$3,301,615

PROGRAMS

Health & Wellness	\$2,877,146
Housing	\$3,794,660
Life Skills & Employment	\$3,056,819
Education	\$3,725,548

TOTAL	\$17,859,550
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NET	\$3,321,993
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Board of Directors

Photographed from Left to Right: Greg Dunlap, Keith Duggan, Marissa Barth, Sandi Jackson, Jaime Hong, John Stumpf, Jeff Roos, Jo-E Lopez, Paul Tobin, Andy Phillips, Alan Clifton, Barry McManus, Maegan Lujan, Adam Horowitz, Tedd Barr, Harry Langenberg, Emily Jameson, Piero Wemyss, Joe Lozowski, Daniel Houck, Mitch Junkins, Renee Pepys Lowe, Kris Theiler, Casandra Williams, Chris Simonsen (CEO)

Not Photographed: Dave Dunn, Leila Entezam, Brandon Fetta, Bob Istwan, Kimberly Kirksey, Neena Master, Vic Merjanian, Mohit Mittal, Vikki Murphy, Lauren Peterson, Tim Ryan, Susan Samuelli, Sona Shah, Rick Sherburne, Kasey Suryan