

Annual Report

2024-2025



Our Mission

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

Our Vision

We envision a community where every young person 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*

Dear Friends of Orangewood Foundation,

This past year has been one of incredible growth and impact at Orangewood Foundation. Together, we celebrated accomplishments that reflect both the strength of our team and the resilience of the young people we serve. From being recognized as one of Orange County's *Best Places to Work*, to opening our newest housing site Hope's Corner, to expanding partnerships that provide safe shelter and opportunities, we are proud of the progress we've made as a community.

These achievements are more than markers of success. They are a foundation for what comes next. They demonstrate what is possible when we come together, and they set the stage for the even greater work that lies ahead. As the needs of Orange County's young people continue to grow, we will rise to meet them with bold ambition and a clear plan.

That is why our 2025–2029 Strategic Plan is so critical. At its heart is a commitment to ensure that every young person in our community has a safe place to call home. The housing crisis for young adults, especially those transitioning from foster care or experiencing homelessness, has reached a breaking point. Between 2022 and 2024, the number of unhoused young adults in Orange County grew by 31%. Yet, only 1.4% of the county's housing is designated for this age group, leaving hundreds without safe, stable shelter. Without housing, every other goal like education, employment, health, independence, becomes nearly impossible.

We cannot wait for others to act. Orangewood Foundation must be bold and assertive to create new opportunities for Orange County's most vulnerable young people. Building on the momentum of this past year, Orangewood will lead the way on housing expansion through new partnerships, innovative solutions, and increased supportive services. But housing is only the beginning. We will also strengthen our role as a thought leader, an advocate, and an employer of choice, ensuring that young people have the resources and champions they deserve.

With your continued support, Orangewood Foundation will move forward with courage and compassion—because every young person deserves a safe home, a supportive community, and a future filled with possibility.

With gratitude,
Chris Simonsen
Chief Executive Officer



2025 Year in Highlights

This year, Orangewood Foundation took bold steps to expand housing, deepen partnerships, and celebrate milestones for the young people we serve. Thanks to our dedicated staff, generous supporters, and strong community partners, more young adults are finding stability, opportunity, and hope.

Recognized as One of Orange County's Best Places to Work

We are proud to be named one of the 2025 Best Places to Work in Orange County, ranking 27th among mid-sized companies and the highest-ranked nonprofit!

This recognition—based on feedback from our own employees—reflects the supportive, mission-driven culture our team has built together. At Orangewood, we want all of our team members to feel valued, empowered, and inspired to make a difference.



Expanding Housing Opportunities

- **Hope's Corner Transitional Housing** – This new housing program, in collaboration with Pathways of Hope, provides safe, stable housing for marginalized young people in Orange County.
- **Illumination Health + Home Partnership** – By utilizing vacant IH+H recuperative beds as emergency shelter beds for Orangewood young adults, we are able to reduce the number of young people that do not have a safe, secure place to sleep at night.
- **South County Outreach Collaboration** – Together, we are preventing homelessness among college students by providing transitional housing in South Orange County.
- **HUD Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers** – Orangewood Foundation is serving 122 young adults that have these valuable HUD vouchers. Our FYI voucher placement rate is outstanding, making our Orange County collaboration the most successful program in the entire country. Another 25–50 vouchers will be added this summer, helping even more young adults find stability.



Milestones in Education

- **Youth Connected Program and Samueli Academy Graduates** – Three students—our first to spend all four years in the Youth Connected Program—graduated this year and are headed to college!
- **More young people receiving scholarships** – \$711,011 in scholarships was awarded to 253 undergraduate students and 20 students pursuing their graduate degree, a doctorate, or a certification.

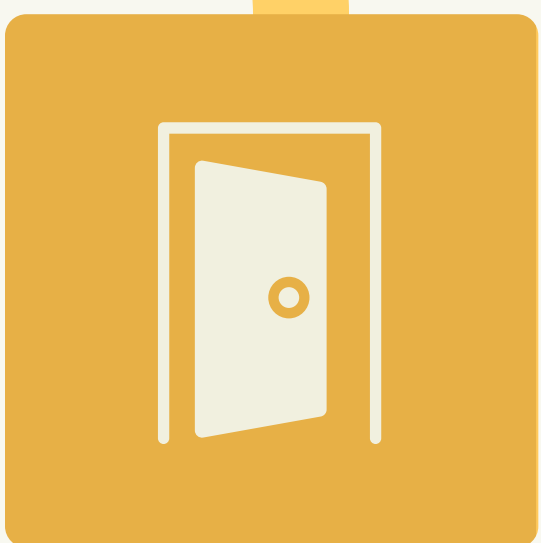
The Fight Against Trafficking

- **Project Choice** – Our drop-in center supported 294 young people experiencing or at-risk of human trafficking – a 17% increase in participants from last year.
- **Fullerton School District Partnership** – Orangewood now provides human trafficking education and training for school staff, helping identify and protect students at risk.



Building Life Skills

- **Foster Youth Enrichment Fund** – After a successful first year administering this \$1.2 million fund, the County extended this benefit through 2026. Foster youth now have access to life-changing enrichment activities—from music and sports to summer camps and family excursions—that build confidence, skills, and healing.



Preparing Young Adults for the Workforce

- **Our General William Lyon Workforce Academy Program (LWA)** continues to grow. 21 of our LWA partners hired 45 young adults into entry-level jobs with sustainable career paths. Through mentorship, job readiness, and real-world experience, young people are gaining the skills they need to succeed in today's workforce.



Our Impact

1,858
young people served

1,182 9,053
visits
young people visited the Orangewood Resource Center, resulting in

12,777 1,044
hot meals served to young people

251 835
hours of therapy
referrals to mental health professionals who provided

11,335 4,043 316%
bags of groceries hygiene kits distributed increase

64 +21
clients children housed in our transitional housing sites

102 \$239,096
young people utilizing for emergency housing and stabilization

Chronically homeless individuals can cost Orange County \$100,000 annually, each. Housing 64 young adult clients represents a savings of \$6.4 million to Orange County.

11 foster youth in the Youth Connected Program

60 young men participated in the Young Adult Court Program – 15% increase

154 young people secured emergency housing – 57% increase

289 current foster youth gained independent living skills through ILP workshops and youth events

Youth Story



*Young adult not pictured to protect privacy.

Eddie helped me access stable housing, find a job, and navigate the complicated process of applying for permanent housing. He supported me with court dates and, most importantly, in my fight for custody of my child. For the first time in a long while, I felt like I had someone in my corner, someone who believed I was capable of change and growth.



Read the full story

Laying the Foundation for the *Future*

Our 2025–2029 Strategic Plan is designed to strengthen our impact and expand opportunities for young adults. At its core, the plan focuses on five bold goals that will ensure every young person has the support they need to achieve self-sufficiency and build a brighter future.

Community Thought Leader

Collaboration drives solutions. We will:

- Incorporate youth voice into **all program design**.
- **Lead trainings and forums** to educate the community on challenges and solutions.
- **Grow a network** of nonprofit and community partners.

Orangewood will be a trusted leader, fostering innovation and shared responsibility for young people.

Amplifying Impact

Community support powers our mission. We will:

- **Build deeper engagement** with donors and partners.
- **Expand outreach** through storytelling and awareness campaigns.

More resources, partnerships, and opportunities for young people to thrive.

Housing Expansion

Safe housing is the foundation for every other success. We will:

- Increase housing units for young people experiencing homelessness **by 250%**
- **Build more partnerships** with affordable housing providers and developers.
- **Expand supportive services** to help young adults live independently.

More young people will have a safe, stable place to call home.

Advocacy

Lasting change begins with policy. We will:

- **Engage policymakers** and influencers on housing, education, and employment.
- **Strengthen relationships** with legislators and public officials
- **Advocate for increased support services** and funding for young adults

Young people's needs and voices will shape decisions at every level.

Valuing Employees

Our staff is our strength. We will:

- Invest in training, professional development, and **leadership pathways**.
- **Enhance engagement** and wellness initiatives.

A thriving, supported workforce ensures the highest level of care for young people.

Financials

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



Revenue	
Individuals	5,864,583
Corporations	730,727
Foundations	2,124,627
Events	1,163,486
Government	7,076,158
Investment Income	3,280,191
One-Time Estate Gifts	4,034,639
Other	1,188,764
Expenses	
Fundraising	1,110,839
Management & General	4,380,136
Programs	
Health & Wellness	3,508,901
Housing	4,182,446
Life Skills & Employment	4,063,113
Education	3,701,915
Total	20,947,350
Net	4,515,825



Board of Directors

Top Row (From Left): Harry Langenberg, Greg Dunlap, Tedd Barr, Rick Sherburne, Sam Bobila, Joe Lozowski, Paul Tobin, Alan Clifton, Jo-E Lopez, Daniel Houck, Chris Simonsen, Maegan Lujan, Rita Al-Silhi

Bottom Row (From Left): Alex Rounaghi, Dr. Christopher Moore, Neena Master, Emily Jameson, Sylvia Pizarroso, Piero Wemyss, Andy Phillips, Mitch Junkins, Sona Shah, Susan Samuelli, Sean Foley, Renee Pepys Lowe

Not Photographed: Marissa Barth, Sean Chaffins, Keith Duggan, Leila Entezam, Brandon Fetta, Bob Istwan, Sandra Jackson, Vic Merjanian, Mohit Mittal, Vikki Murphy, Jeff Roos, Tim Ryan, Kasey Suryan, Kris Theiler, Matthias Weber, Casandra Williams



info@orangewoodfoundation.org | orangewoodfoundation.org | 716-619-0200 | Federal Tax ID 95-3616628

Mailing Address 1901 N. Fairview St, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Physical Address 1575 E. 17th St, Santa Ana, CA 92705