Financial Empowerment Finding Flexibility During the Pandemic

Many of our programs and services have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this includes our Financial Empowerment Workshops. Normally, our participants could visit one of our three Family Resource Centers (FRC) to meet with our staff to engage in courses that would educate them on how to better manage their money. Topics include budgeting, setting up a savings account, fraud prevention, and more. This program would otherwise need to be canceled due to its in-person nature. However, staff from each FRC have been working together to create an online Financial Empowerment program that will not only provide classes but the latest information on resources and programs available.

There are two ways participants can continue to access the material: one is by attending Facebook live presentations and the other includes staff sending PowerPoints with audio recordings accompanied by coursework by email. The staff thought it was important to offer options to provide flexibility based on each client’s availability of technology. Participants will also utilize Zoom and a Facebook group to be able to answer questions and develop group interaction.

“We felt that it was important to figure out how to continue to provide this service to our community, especially during these uncertain times. We have been receiving many calls with concerns about how people are going to pay their bills and rent, and we just had to do something,” says Rita Garcia, Financial Empowerment Coordinator at our El Modena FRC.

You can following our journey on Facebook at www.facebook.org/financialempowerment2020

Big Dollars Make a Big Difference

CAP OC is grateful for the support of several key donors who provided financial support in response to COVID-19. The first leadership gift came from The William, Jeff, and Jennifer Gross Foundation

“My children, Jeff and Jennifer, and I have been longtime supporters of the OC Food Bank and the Community Action Partnership of Orange County, even before this crisis,” said Bill Gross, whose William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Family Foundation has been a generous supporter of Orange County non-profits, most recently with a $250,000 donation to the OC Food Bank. “We believe in giving back to the communities in which we live, and to the tireless volunteers and non-profit organizations which selflessly provide service to those in need, when they need it most.”

Thank you to COVID-19 Response Partners:

The William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Foundation
The PIMCO Foundation
Southern California Edison
The Thompson Family Foundation
Pacific Life Foundation
Bank of America
United Way Orange County
SCAN Healthcare Foundation
The Ginder Family Foundation
Samueli Foundation
Allergan Foundation
UPS Foundation

As of April 1, 2020
A Message from our President & CEO, Gregory C. Scott

One thing is evident, when Orange County pulls together, they do it well. When the COVID-19 pandemic heavily impacted our communities in early March, we were shocked at how quickly things changed; especially at our OC Food Bank.

We are truly grateful for the outpour of support from our partners, friends, and volunteers during this critical time for our agency. As we navigate our new reality, we are still committed to providing for the families, children, and seniors we serve.

We are responding with diligence to ensure the safety of our staff and the people we have the honor of serving. While we have modified our operations with a focus on food distribution, we are still providing remote support and resources to families who are reaching out. In addition, we are processing utility assistance applications to help alleviate the worries and fears that many of our neighbors are currently feeling.

We are grateful for the corporations who have stepped up in a BIG way for our organization. Thank you to The William, Jeff, and Jennifer Gross Family Foundation, PIMCO Foundation, Pacific Life Foundation, Southern California Edison, Bank of America Foundation, United Way Orange County, SCAN Healthcare Foundation, Allergan Foundation and UPS Foundation. Their donations have provided the funding we need to respond to the pandemic. Also, thank all of you who made a contribution and responded to our recent Stock the Shelves mail campaign.

We will overcome this, and together as a community we will be stronger. Thank you for your continued support and prayers in this time. Together we are all Community Action.

In Service,

Gregory C. Scott
President & CEO

The Census Needs Your Help!

2020 Census operations have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The most vulnerable communities also stand to lose the most by being under-counted in the 2020 Census. Census data determines 90% of federal funds which amounts to 1.5 trillion dollars every year. These funds impact the necessary resources each community needs for programs such as health care, education, and housing.

CAP OC needs your help to call residents in Orange County to help ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census. Calling can be done remotely from the comfort and safety of your home.

Sign up to be a 2020 Census volunteer at capoc.volunteerhub.com

2020 Census: Virtual Phone Banking

Wed - April 22, Wed - April 29, Thursday - April 30
Time: 4-6:30 pm Where: Your house

If you have any questions, please email our Census Team at ggcensusad@gmail.com.

Everyone counts in the 2020 Census. Get Counted today - online at my2020census.gov, by phone at 844-330-2020 or by mail paper forms arrive April 8-16.
**Diaper Bank Covers Families During Crisis**

The Diaper Bank officially launched this past week and was able to fulfill a need in the community very quickly.

To date, CAP OC has distributed **160,250 diapers** to 37 partner agencies in Orange County. That means a total of **3,205 babies** have received a supply of 50 diapers! CAP OC is currently looking for agencies who are still open and operating who want to help provide relief for families who are facing financial hardship during this unprecedented time.

Please visit [www.capoc.org/diaperbank](http://www.capoc.org/diaperbank) for more information.

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**CAP OC Welcomes New Leadership**

We are pleased to announce that Sunny Robilotta has joined our team as our new Chief Financial Officer as of March 9, 2020.

Sunny was born in Seoul, Republic of Korea and immigrated to the U.S. in 1985. She earned a Bachelor’s degree from the College of Charleston with a double major in Accounting and Business. Sunny is a seasoned accountant and an active Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in the State of California. She earned an Executive Masters of Business Administration Degree from California State University, Monterey Bay. She is married with two daughters.

Sunny’s professional background includes a little over 27 years working in the accounting field, with 18 years as the head of the accounting/finance departments of nonprofit organizations. As the financial leader, she worked very closely with her former and current Presidents, CEOs, Boards of Directors, organizational committees that deal with Budget and Finance, Investment, Audit, and Strategic Planning, Senior Executive Management teams, as well as the many different levels of staff. Sunny also has experience with overseeing various organization’s Information Technology (IT), HR and Property Management functions.

Her bilingual communication skills (Korean and English) and ability to get along with employees at all levels are standout qualities of Sunny’s. Her expertise and special interest areas are in accounting leadership, business /accounting analysis and process improvement. She enjoys producing analytical information to assist Chief Executive Officers in making solid and informed financial, ethical, and forward thinking business decisions.

William “Bill” Bailor joined our Executive Leadership Team as Chief Operating Officer (COO) for CAP OC on March 23, 2020. Bill will oversee the operations of the agency, including Programs, Planning, IT, and facilities. As COO Bill will also oversee and play a major collaborative role in CAP OC’s strategic planning metrics, business/program development, contract management, evaluation, quality assurance, and continuous improvement among other operational duties.

Bill holds a bachelor’s degree from California State University, San Jose. Bill worked for 20-years at The Tech Museum of Innovation and held the VP of Operations position for the last 13-years of his tenure. As VP of Operations, Bill managed eight operational departments, collaborated on strategic goals and operational objectives to achieve the museum’s mission and vision, and oversaw the annual budget process. Before agreeing to join CAP OC, Bill held the position of Executive Director at Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center in Anaheim.
Increased Demand at OC Food Bank

“In my 33 years at the OC Food Bank, I have never witnessed anything like this,” says Mark Lowry, Director of the OC Food Bank. The increased demand on the Food Bank meant donated food supplies were dangerously low, and the organization was faced with purchasing staple items: canned meats, fruits, rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, milk, and eggs.

Traditionally, the OC Food Bank receives donated food from the surplus of grocery stores, but due to the demand, surplus items are no longer available. Typical Food Drives are nonexistent due to social distancing, yet the Food Bank distributed a record number of 1,514,770 pounds of food last month. Food went to organizations like the Orange County Labor Federation who stopped by to pick up more than 500 emergency food boxes for their members, 92% of which who had just been laid off. Many of the members are janitors, entertainment and individuals from the service industry.

Kristin Kvesic, Donated Food Manager has been rapidly calling restaurants, grocery stores and other potential food product donors to help meet the increased need. “Due to the shutdown, we have seen an increase in produce donations. But it has been more difficult to source shelf staple items that we need for our Emergency Food Boxes,” says Kvesic.

In Orange County, Cal Fresh applications have doubled. The Food Locator web site that CAP OC helped establish: www.OCFoodHelp.org has had a 4000% increase in users since the pandemic began. Nearly half of OC Food Bank’s agency partners who focus on emergency food distribution have ceased operations. These are soup kitchens, shelters and churches who are often the first stop for communities in need. The Food Bank is doing mass distributions of food directly to vulnerable families and has partnered with Power of One to do a Food Distribution on Saturday’s at Santa Ana College from 8 am - 2 pm.

More information can be found at www.capoc.org/resources.

To help support the Food Bank donate at www.capoc.org or start a Virtual Food Drive and help raise funds to purchase staple items.

Helping Food Partners Navigate New Needs

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Huntington Beach, CA is one of the 300 agency partners that depends on the OC Food Bank to provide food to their community of approximately 200 people a week. The Church utilizes the Food Rescuer program, which receives food from stores like Albertson’s. Due to the pandemic, many of the church’s patrons expressed a need for help during the crisis. Sue Kiper was able to be connected to our Energy & Environmental Services program and find out about emergency utility assistance. “I’ve given your number out to a good dozen people, and everyone has nothing but good things to say about us and the program,” says Kiper. “We cannot thank you all enough. The whole team is fantastic!”
How to Support While Social Distancing

The nation has been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic and Community Action Partnership and its OC Food Bank has greatly been impacted. There has been a big up-tick in seniors picking up food boxes despite recommendations to self-isolate. Our nonprofit partners who remain open are picking up a record amount of food to serve their communities.

A great way that anyone can support the OC Food Bank from the comfort of their home is starting a Virtual Food Drive (VFD). A VFD is a fundraising platform to help support a worthy cause, in this case would be the OC Food Bank. Simply go to www.capoc.org, click “Start a Virtual Food Drive,” create a page, and share the fundraising page to your friends, family, and colleagues! For questions, please contact John Nguyen at jxnguyen@capoc.org.

Thank you to our top 3 teams so far!

Kingston Technology
Yorba Linda Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Quinn Shurian

As well as all of our VFD groups and contributors!

Alberta is one of our Board of Directors and has been regularly volunteering during the pandemic, despite being in the higher risk population. When asked why she would put herself at risk to volunteer:

“My community has many seniors who depend on these food boxes. I will not let fear dictate to me that I cannot donate 2 hours per day to help feed my neighbors. All these volunteers and I that come out to the OC Food Bank during this time of crisis come to serve the greater good of mankind.”

Stuck at Home? Get Movin’ with These Fun Activities!

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children and youth should engage in a minimum of 60 minutes of daily physical activity and adults 150 minutes a week. There are a variety of activities to enjoy while at home that can help you meet the daily physical activity recommendations. Get creative by using regular household items or party supplies and turn on some music for extra motivation. Here are some fun activities that focus on muscle strengthening and balance and control that the whole family can try!

Strengthen those muscles:
Musical Statues Pose Off
1. Play music while adults/children dance. Play music for 1-2 minutes.
2. When the music stops, participants should freeze. Strike a pose!
3. Encourage participants (adults and children) to freeze in a balancing position such as on one foot, with arms extended, or leaning in one direction.

Practice balance and control:
Balloon Tennis Game
1. Gather disposable plates (1 per person) and blow up several balloons.
2. Throw all the balloons up in the air.
3. Hit the balloons up with the plates preventing them from falling to the ground.

Looking for more fun activities? Search for Move More, Eat Healthy on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube or visit www.movemoreeathealthy.org.
Thank You For Your Support!

Contributions listed are from January 1st, 2020 – March 31st, 2020 and are $100 and above. The Philanthropy department has done our best to assure 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!

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Become a Monthly Donor Today!

Our nation will forever be changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Families, seniors and youth will need CAP OC services and programs in the weeks and months ahead. Reliable, steady support from caring people like you will allow us to serve those in need every day. Helping is as easy as joining our Monthly Gift program. Your monthly donation of $20, $50 or even $100 can help make a significant difference for our programs.

Visit www.capoc.org/monthlydonor to sign up now!
Ways you can help during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Donate

Start a Virtual Food Drive

Volunteer

Get started today at www.capoc.org