



### **1. Senior Food Box Impact**

- a. Our Senior Food Box program has distributed 240,220 boxes to seniors in need so far this year. Alice\*, a recipient of our program, shared “The food box has helped me so much. Right now, my family is struggling and with this support we feel respected and helped. It's made a huge difference for our budget, especially now.” \*Pseudonym used

### **2. 2025 CalFresh/SNAP Enrollments**

- a. In a year marked by uncertainty, we have successfully enrolled nearly 1,500 individuals in CalFresh, the State of California’s SNAP benefits program. Our enrollment team has worked tirelessly to ensure families have the support needed to support themselves and their families.

### **3. Millions of Pounds of Food Distributed**

- a. So far, the OC Food Bank has distributed over 20 million meals in 2025. In addition to our normal county-wide operations, donors and partners have stepped up to meet increasingly high needs as Orange County families grapple with rising costs at the grocery store and other aspects of life.

### **4. Volunteers Made a Huge Impact**

- a. Just this year, we welcomed almost 50,000 volunteers who each lent a hand in our mission to eliminate poverty in Orange County. Without each and every volunteer, we would have to hire hundreds of additional employees to continue supporting our community at the same level.

### **5. Advocacy Efforts to Support OC Food Bank**

- a. The OC Food Bank initiated statewide advocacy efforts urging the release of previously approved funds for food banks to offset the effects of federal budget cuts. We also called on both the State of California and the Orange County Board of Supervisors to make disaster food boxes available to struggling families and individuals during the government shutdown.

### **6. Helping Families Thrive**

- a. We proudly offer whole-family support through our Youth & Family Programs Department who offer case management, counseling, financial empowerment, and so much more! This year, 93% of the families we support have made significant strides, moving from crisis to thriving in 2025.

## **7. LA Fire Response & Community Support**

a. When three wildfires devastated Los Angeles communities in January 2025, CAP OC stepped in to help families begin recovering. Our team provided hands-on support at the LA Regional and Westside Food Banks and expanded storage capacity to manage the overwhelming generosity of local donors.

## **8. Policy Agenda Launch**

a. In 2025, CAP OC unveiled its Public Policy Agenda—a bold framework designed to strengthen the well-being and economic stability of our most vulnerable neighbors. The agenda highlights four strategic drivers and the state and federal legislation that supports them, from expanding child tax credits to improving school meal programs. To access the full agenda, click [here](#).

## **9. MLK Day of Service**

a. Instead of taking the day off, CAP OC supporters gathered for a day on in recognition of MLK Day in January. Together, volunteers filled the OC Food Bank, packing over 11,000 food boxes that would be distributed to seniors and families in need throughout early 2025.

## **10. Valentines Day Notes from Volunteers**

a. This Valentines Day we asked our volunteers to share why they love coming to the OC Food Bank to volunteer – they came together to decorate our volunteer cart with sweet messages of community and service.

## **11. National Volunteer Month**

a. To celebrate National Volunteer Month throughout April, we asked some of our most avid supporters why they choose to volunteer: “At Pacific Life, volunteering at the OC Food Bank is a cherished tradition. The camaraderie and shared purpose of fighting hunger inspire us all. Our employees enjoy bringing their families along, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere as we support families and seniors in need.” – Shannon Bamsey, Sr Operations Claims Specialist, Pacific Life

## **12. VITA Efforts Recognized County-Wide**

a. Every year, CAP OC offers tax filing services in partnership with OC United Way. This year, our El Modena Family Resource Center (EMFRC) team

received special recognition for their successful filing support that led to 89 total filing and just 2 rejections – the lowest rejection rate across all small- tier sites!

### **13. CalFood Funding Success**

- a. Our team actively advocated for funding to CalFood — a vital state program that helps food banks purchase fresh fruits and vegetables that are not typically donated. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our OC Food Bank team and our partners at the California Association of Food Banks, the 2025-2026 California State Budget includes \$60 million in CalFood funding.

### **14. OC Diaper Bank's 5th Anniversary**

- a. The OC Diaper Bank celebrated its milestone anniversary this year, commemorating 5 years of support across Orange County.

### **15. Night of Hope Gala: Recognizing Community Changemakers**

- a. At our Night of Hope Gala we proudly recognized four outstanding supporters whose dedication is making a real difference in our community including Connie J. Jones (Community Champion Award), The Ginder Family Foundation (Community Hero Award), The Sun Family Foundation (Community Impact Award), and Congressman Lou Correa (Diamond Anniversary Leader Award).

### **16. Night of Hope Gala: Fund a Need Success**

- a. Our Night of Hope Gala featured an exciting Silent Auction and Fund a Need event, surpassing our fundraising goal by raising over \$200,000 to support our mission of eliminating poverty in Orange County.

### **17. Night of Hope Gala: Surprise Performance by Grammy Nominated Recording Artist Aloe Blacc**

- a. Our 2025 Night of Hope Gala concluded with a showstopping finale from our surprise guest, Grammy-nominated artist Aloe Blacc, who closed out our celebration with his greatest hits!

### **18. Claudia's Story**

- a. Claudia\* was facing the challenges of homelessness before she met CAP OC's Housing Navigation team. With guidance and increased access to support, she set her sights on a brighter tomorrow, enrolling in college to

become a Certified Community Health Worker while working towards sustainable housing. \*Pseudonym used

### **19. 2025 Public Hearing**

- a. To support data collection efforts for our 2025 Community Needs Assessment (CNA), CAP OC hosted a Public Hearing in May that welcomed program participants, partners, volunteers, and supporters to speak on their experiences with our agency.

### **20. OC Food Bank Open House Welcomed Partners**

- a. To kick off the Summer we invited our 230 OC Food Bank partners to join us for an Open House in our warehouse. Attendees got an inside look at all of CAP OC's programs, explored new opportunities for collaboration, and even helped celebrate capacity building at our facility as we cut the ribbon on our new mezzanine space.

### **21. Kids Cafe Returns to Family Resource Centers**

- a. This year we were happy to re-establish our partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide free nutritionally rich meals to all youth that are under the age of 18. In total, we have distributed 592 meals through Kid's Cafe this year.

### **22. 2025 Community Needs Assessment Release**

- a. Following community surveying and our Public Hearing, we proudly released our 2025 Community Needs Assessment, indicating the most urgent needs of families in Orange County. To access the full report, [click here](#).

### **23. Backpacks for Success: Southwest Community Center**

- a. On July 18 we hosted our 2025 Backpacks for Success distribution at Southwest Community Center. In addition to distributing backpacks, we were joined by various community partners who shared tools and resources for families ahead of the school year. Across all our distribution events, over 2,000 backpacks were provided to local students.

### **24. Backpacks for Success: Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center**

- a. On July 25 we hosted our 2025 Backpacks for Success distribution at Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center. In addition to distributing backpacks, we were joined by various community partners who shared tools

and resources for families ahead of the school year. Across all our distribution events, over 2,000 backpacks were provided to local students.

#### **25. Backpacks for Success: El Modena Family Resource Center**

- a. On July 26 we hosted our 2025 Backpacks for Success distribution at El Modena Family Resource Center. In addition to distributing backpacks, we were joined by various community partners who shared tools and resources for families ahead of the school year. Across all our distribution events, over 2,000 backpacks were provided to local students.

#### **26. NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**

- a. Every year we partner with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) for their Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive — the largest one-day food drive in the nation! This year, with the helping hands of many of our long-term food bank partners, we collected almost 200,000 pounds of food to support our hunger alleviation efforts.

#### **27. Awarded Nonprofit of the Year**

- a. In May CAP OC was recognized by the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce as Nonprofit of the Year – recognizing our continued efforts in Garden Grove and throughout Orange County.

#### **28. August Open House Series**

- a. In August we opened our doors to supporters to get an inside look into our facilities. Every week we hosted an open house at one of our locations including the OC Food Bank and our 3 family resource centers to highlight the hands on efforts we take here at CAP OC.

#### **29. California Jobs First Funding Awarded**

- a. CAP OC proudly received two California Jobs First Catalyst Funding Awards from the Orange County Business Council (OCBC), supporting efforts to strengthen the county's workforce pipeline and expand affordable housing. In August, we celebrated these initiatives alongside local representatives including Senator Tom Umberg and Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva.

#### **30. Canstruction OC 2025**

- a. Canstruction OC 2025 launched this September, hosting 10 massive, all can structures at South Coast Plaza to bring attention to local food insecurity.

Together, the event resulted in 43,895 cans of food being donated to the OC Food Bank.

### **31. Annual Watermelon Harvest at the Giving Farm**

- a. In September, the Giving Farm welcomed students from Westminster High School for their annual Watermelon Harvest where every student stepped out of the classroom to lend a hand at the farm. All the watermelons harvested were delivered to the OC Food Bank for distribution.

### **32. Anti-Poverty Summit: Keynote by Michael Tubbs**

- a. Our Anti-Poverty Summit kicked off with a powerful morning keynote from Michael Tubbs who spoke on place-based solutions to poverty, sharing his lived experience and expertise related to concepts like guaranteed income in fighting poverty locally.

### **33. Anti-Poverty Summit: Beyond the Food Line Panel**

- a. Our 2025 Anti-Poverty Summit featured a powerful panel of food insecurity experts who explored bold, innovative strategies to fight food insecurity through philanthropic, healthcare, and corporate strategies.

### **34. Anti-Poverty Summit: Entrepreneurship Panel**

- a. Our Anti-Poverty Summit welcomed a panel of influential business leaders to share how entrepreneurship can be a powerful driver of economic mobility and lift individuals out of poverty.

### **35. Anti-Poverty Summit: Immigration Panel**

- a. We welcomed a panel of immigration leaders at our Anti-Poverty Summit. From advocating for more inclusive policies to expanding opportunities in their communities, storytelling was the focus of this insightful discussion.

### **36. Anti-Poverty Summit: Housing with Heather Dion**

- a. At our 2025 Anti-Poverty Summit we were joined by Heather Dion from the City of Irvine to share insights into affordable housing in Orange County.

### **37. Anti-Poverty Summit: Fireside Chat with Gregory C. Scott**

- a. Our 2025 Anti-Poverty Summit featured a fireside chat with our President & CEO, Gregory C. Scott. He shared his story, highlighting the turning points in his life that have led him to where he is today.

### 38. Anti-Poverty Summit: What will you commit to?

- a. Our 2025 Anti-Poverty Summit concluded with a powerful group activity that asked participants to share what they will personally commit to to help end poverty in Orange County.

### 39. Lilly's Story

- a. Lilly\*, a strong and determined single mom of two boys, found herself without a stable place to call home—at times even sleeping in her car in an effort to keep her children safe. Thankfully, with support from our Housing Navigation and Enhanced Care Management teams, Lilly was able to get into shelter, start therapy, and focus on her healing. Now, she is actively pursuing a degree in psychology at a local university and hopes to support others just as she was. Her two boys are also thriving thanks to more stable living conditions and ongoing support. They both attend school, go to the Boys and Girls Club after school, and play adaptive baseball with the Miracle League of Orange County on the weekends. \*Pseudonym used

### 40. Oscar's Story from Participant to Donor

- a. When Oscar\* was young, his family lived near our Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center (AIFRC) where his parents would utilize services to support their family as he grew up. Fast forward to the present day, Oscar has returned to his childhood neighborhood, in search of an opportunity to give back in a meaningful way. When he arrived, he expressed a tremendous feeling of nostalgia, knowing that his contribution would have a personal tie he wouldn't experience elsewhere. Once reacquainted with our services, Oscar became a gift sponsor, providing holiday presents for a mother in need. When asked about his choice to return to AIFRC as a supporter, Oscar shared his biggest takeaway was to “not take the small things for granted”, recognizing the continued impact AIFRC has had on his family and so many others. \*Pseudonym used

### 41. LIHEAP Impact Story: Cheree

- a. Cheree, one of our Utility Assistance program participants, shared: “When summer hit, school was out, and I am a tutor. There was no work, and I had to go on unemployment. I didn't have enough to pay my electric bill, so I turned to LIHEAP for help. I was so happy when I got the letter in the mail that stated I had a credit towards my electric bill for a couple of months. They

helped me when I had no other form of help. I don't know what I would have done without their assistance. It's great to know there are programs out there like this in times of need.”

#### **42. LIHEAP Impact Story: Donna**

- a. Donna\*, one of our Utility Assistance program participants, shared, "I just wanted to say thank you so much for all the help this program and all the people who work there, have done for me. Without them I don't know what I would have done. With the rising cost of everything going up so much, it's so easy to fall behind on bills even with cutting back as much as possible. It's really easy to find yourself in an emergency situation. My power was shut off in the middle of this heat wave we're having. Thankfully, with the help of CAP OC, I was able to get the help I needed." \*Pseudonym used

#### **43. El Modena Family Resource Center Hosts Community Meeting**

- a. Our El Modena Family Resource Center hosted a community meeting to hear from those impacted by new immigration policies. Local experts from organizations including Resilience OC, Orange Police Department, and Orange Unified School District, joined us to hear firsthand from concerned neighbors. Together, they responded to public concerns, discussed available resources, and provided accurate, up-to-date information.

#### **44. Diaper Needs Awareness Week Community Resource Fair**

- a. This September we recognized Diaper Need Awareness Week by cohosting a community resource fair with CalOptima Health. Community partners came together to support local families in need.

#### **45. Caitlyn's Story**

- a. Caitlyn\* first heard about CAPOC in a Facebook post about electricity bill assistance. When she visited our office to learn more, she discovered our other programs including Weatherization, which she then applied for. Unfortunately, when we performed her home assessment, we had to fully defer her home because of the amount of asbestos she had in her attic and duct system. Months after Caitlyn's home assessment, CAP OC received Weatherization Readiness Funds (WRF), which were created to bring deferred homes into weatherization-ready status. With the additional funds, we had the asbestos ducts removed and installed full HVAC and duct systems. We were also able to insulate her attic and exterior walls and install

mechanical ventilation to improve the indoor air quality in her home.

\*Pseudonym used

#### **46. Welcoming OC Legislators at our Facilities**

- a. Throughout the year we welcomed many of our Orange County representatives to our facilities to learn about our local impact, understand our programs and services, and consider opportunities for continued support. Local, state, and federal officials visited CAP OC including Representative Derek Tran, Representative Lou Correa, Representative Young Kim, State Senator Tom Umberg, and many more!

#### **47. Full STEAM Ahead Event with Santa Ana College**

- a. In October we teamed up with Santa Ana College to host a Full STEAM Ahead event, to inspire local youth and teens to consider future career paths. The event welcomed over 100 students and featured a resource fair, breakout sessions, and career presentations focused on STEAM opportunities.

#### **48. Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center Hot Meal Distribution**

- a. To support neighbors impacted by SNAP pauses in November, our Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center began hosting free dinners once a week for those in need.

#### **49. Everyday Essentials Donations**

- a. Local supporters came together to collect everyday essentials for our Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center community. Items included soap, toothpaste, shampoo, wipes, and more to ensure families have the everyday items they need to succeed.

#### **50. The Giving Machine Hosts CAP OC**

- a. From December 2-12, CAP OC participated in the Giving Machine – a unique holiday giving opportunity where supporters can “purchase” items from a vending machine to support our mission. The machines, located on Huntington Beach Pier, brought excitement and visibility to our organization, and we are grateful to have participated.

#### **51. Community Support During SNAP Pause**

- a. When the government shutdown occurred and SNAP benefits were paused, our community jumped into action to support families facing crisis. With the

support of the OC Hunger Alliance and 2-1-1 OC, we managed increased demand for services. We also experienced a surge in support, receiving countless calls asking how to make a donation during this time of need. As a result, our Virtual Food Drive has received donations from almost 450 donors and counting.

### **52. National Family Volunteer Day**

- a. In November, hundreds of volunteers joined us to celebrate National Family Volunteer Day, packing holiday food boxes for families in need. Thanks to their incredible efforts, we packed a total of 19,986 boxes to be distributed by the OC Food Bank this holiday season!

### **53. Thanksgiving at Southwest Community Center**

- a. Our Southwest Community Center team was joined by Santa Ana Council Members Johnathan Hernandez and Benjamin Vazquez as well as Orange County Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento to distribute Thanksgiving meals to neighbors in need ahead of the holiday weekend. Meals were provided by Santa Ana Redds and Sariñana's Tamale Factory.

### **54. CAP OC Earns Accreditation for Weatherization Apprenticeship Program**

- a. As part of ongoing efforts to advance and expand our Weatherization program, we received accreditation from the State of California for our Weatherization Apprenticeship program. Now, our program is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor, and graduates will earn credentials as Home Performance Energy Specialists, qualified in advanced home modification and Weatherization practices. The program will feature a hybrid learning model and take approximately two years to complete.

### **55. Financial Empowerment Success**

- a. So far in 2025, 63 participants have completed our Financial Empowerment workshop series, "Your Money, Your Goals", that offers crucial financial literacy skills to individuals seeking support. We have proudly hosted workshops in collaboration with the City of Irvine, local family resource centers, and other community partners.

### **56. Recognized by the OC Board of Supervisors**

- a. Joined by many of our community partners, CAP OC was recognized by the OC Board of Supervisors for our efforts to eliminate hunger and homelessness in Orange County.

### **57. Helping Students Achieve Success**

- a. This year our Youth Programs team has supported students achieve their academic goals by applying for college, exploring career fields and eliminating barriers hindering their progress. Most recently one of our participants received the Soroptimist Woman of the Year award. We are proud of her success and continue to support her ambitious goals.

### **58. Housing Navigation Success**

- a. In 2025 alone, our team successfully housed 25 participants. This is a tremendous accomplishment for our Housing Navigation staff who work closely with each participant to ensure they receive the support they need to secure and sustain long-term housing.

### **59. Weatherizing Homes Across Orange County**

- a. Over the past year, our Energy and Environmental Services Team has weatherized 238 homes and invested \$2,545,064.85 in the community to enhance neighborhood safety and energy efficiency.

### **60. Expanding Our Team for Home Deliveries**

- a. In the last several months of the year, we have brought on additional temporary staff to support our Home Delivery process. Fear related to immigration enforcement has kept many participants from attending distributions. To ensure they still received the food they depend on, we delivered directly to their doorsteps, serving hundreds of seniors monthly, while also working to rebuild trust and reassure them that our distribution sites are safe.