

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



ORANGE COUNTY
CONSERVATION CORPS

2020-21



ORANGE COUNTY CONSERVATION CORPS
ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Katharyn O. Muñiz

Dear Friends:

The Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) works each day to fulfill our mission of serving disenfranchised young adults through training, skills development, employability, and educational programs. Our goal is to have self-sufficient Corpsmembers who can provide much-needed service to their community through conservation-driven projects.

OCCC Corpsmembers are vital to our conservation-driven projects throughout the county, and in turn, these projects are critical to their growth and success. Elevating our young adults through our projects has been a special privilege for our staff, who are the real heroes of our organization. Our staff continues to go above and beyond, from coordinating the 6:30 a.m. crews and ensuring our Corpsmembers get the program they deserve. I am genuinely thankful for their daily work and dedication to OCCC.

The mission of OCCC is only able to be accomplished through the driven and passionate staff serving our Corpsmembers. Along with the willingness of our Corpsmembers that make our organization thrive each day. These young adults enter our doors ready to become Corpsmembers and take critical and measured steps toward a bright and robust future. Some have never worked on projects like the ones they are volunteering to face each day, yet, they are committed, determined, and successful.

As OCCC has persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization continues to thrive. But this work could not have been possible without our generous and supportive donors and sponsors. Through their partnerships, generosity, and trust, we have made our corps a top-tier organization for young adults. We owe our deepest gratitude to all who continue to help us accomplish our mission at OCCC, as we look forward to moving onward with future success.

Thank you for your support and dedicated service for another successful year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katharyn O. Muñiz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE STAFF



Tony Huynh
Chief Financial Officer



Josh Volp
Director of Operations



Susan Soria
Manager,
Corpsmember
Leadership &
Development



Veronica Yopez
Supervisor, Workforce
Development
Compliance &
Evaluation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jose Sandoval
Chairman
Retired Chief Assistant Attorney
City of Santa Ana

Dave Connor
Vice-Chair
Orange County
Department of Education
- Division of Alternative
Education

Mark Yarter
Treasurer
Vice President of National Print
and Inventory Corp

Barbara Whitney
Secretary
Community Service Leader City of
Irvine Open Space Preserve

Henry S. Barbosa, Esq.
Board Member
Vera & Barbosa

Daisy Sarmiento
Board Member
Entrepreneur

Genoveva Meza Talbott, Esq.
Board Member
Meza Talbott Law

Silvia Ichar
Board Member
Founder & Publisher of
Para Todos Magazine

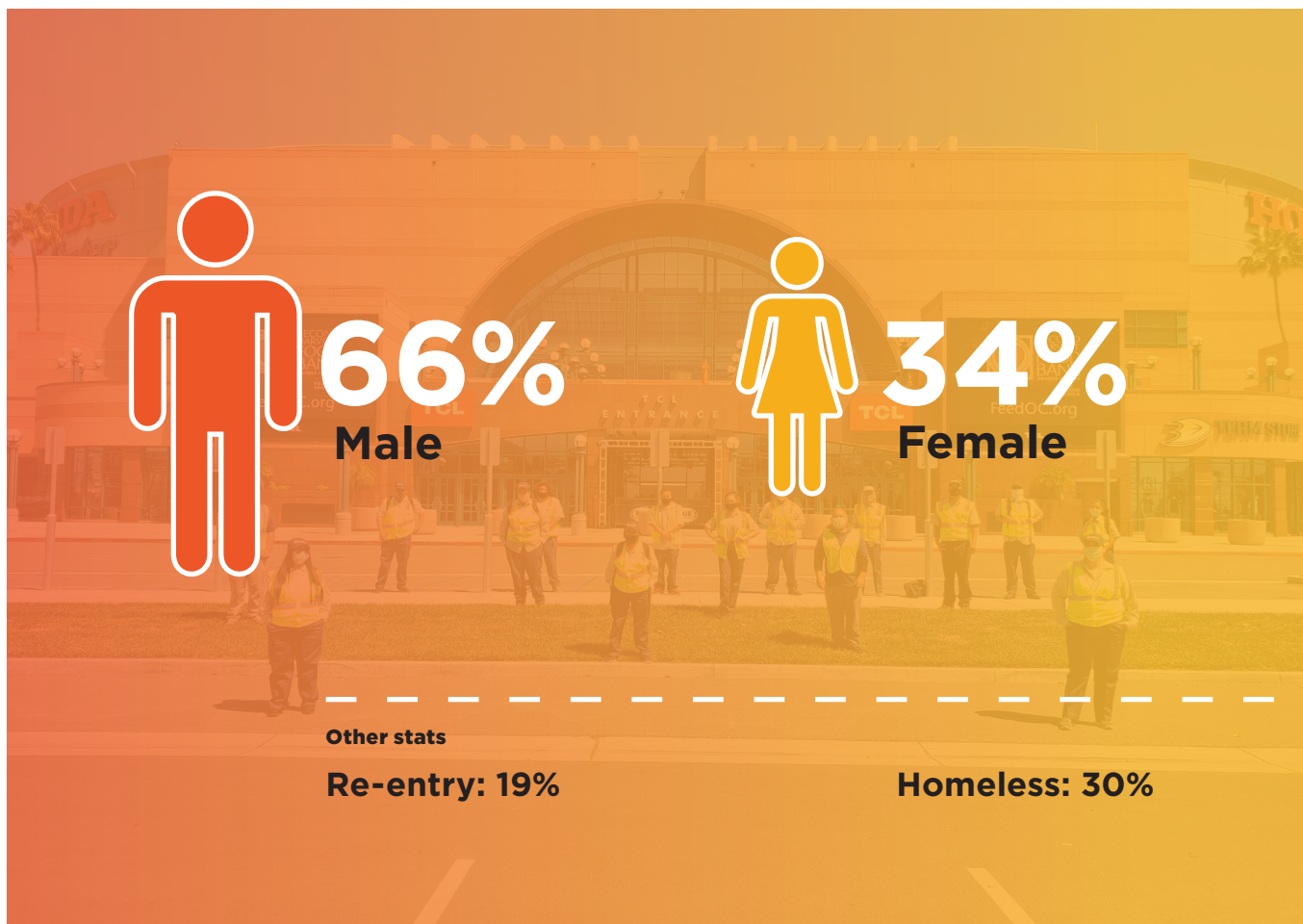
Juanita Preciado-Hernandez
Board Member
Administrative Manager OC
Community Resources

Richard R. Licerio
Board Member
Labor Relations Representative
The Laborers Pacific Southwest
Regional

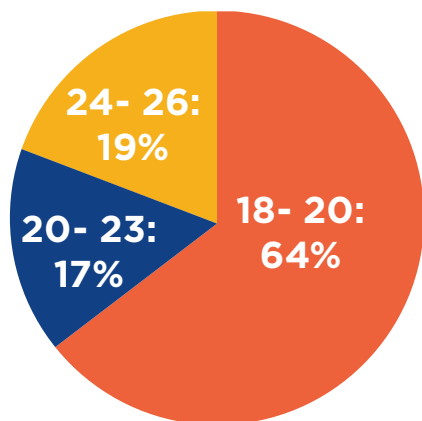
Paul Jaurequi
Board Member
Vice President of Strategic
Partnerships Incipio Group

Kris Murray
Board Member
CEO|President KLM Strategies

CORPSMEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS



Age:



Ethnicities Served:

- Hispanic or Latino: 84%**
- White: 8%**
- Black or African American: 4%**
- Asian: 4%**

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT



ALFONSO LUNA
ALUMNUS

“THE OCCC
ALLOWS
YOU TO BE
A BETTER
PERSON EVEN
WHEN YOU’RE
REBELLIOUS
OR FEEL LIKE
GIVING UP.”

I came to the OCCC not knowing what I wanted to do. I wandered the streets lost, depressed, and suffering from drug addictions. I jumped from job to job, primarily in restaurants working in various positions until I lost interest and felt like I was not going anywhere. I was referred to the OCCC by my sister, who already worked there. I was a timid, introverted person, and I came up with the mindset to treat this job like any other job that I would use to move on to the next. Working on the crew, I got used to waking up early, my clothes were always dirty and muddy, but I liked working outdoors and soon learned that I was making a difference even though I couldn’t see the big picture. My daily routine was teamwork, learning how to communicate, and getting the work done. Later on, I felt this was not just another job, and things started to change in me. I began to communicate more, breaking out of my shyness, making friends, and getting to know different personalities. It felt great to make connections and do something good for the environment.

Within a year, I became open and transparent, asking more questions and eager to learn more. I volunteered for community events and job fairs, and I started to see myself as a leader earning awards for participation and even Corpmember of the Month.

Along the way, seeds were being planted by the OCCC staff, positive messages about myself that gave

me the confidence to try something outside of the Corps. I was offered a position as a Job Coach with Goodwill of Orange County. I took the skills like teamwork and leadership and applied them to my new job working with adults with disabilities, where I learned patience and gained a humble heart. I had to watch and teach them, and it was a great responsibility. I built a relationship with a deaf person who taught me a different way to communicate, and I had to figure out how to help him succeed. I gained their trust and supported them even though I was still going through personal and family issues. Within a brief time, an opportunity changed my life and direction. I was going to college majoring in psychology when I started working with employees with Autism. I craved to learn more and decided it was time to apply my experience and education. I did my research and felt my passion was to make a difference for others. I am happy to say that my dream came true, and I am working full-time helping children with Autism. My long-term goal is to earn more credentials, a master’s degree, and become a Behavior Analyst.

A troubled child with ADHD, and with the help of my therapist, I came from receiving services to now giving services, and this is where I am supposed to be. The OCCC was the light in my dark world.

CORPSMEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**LUZ MARIA
LUNA**

Corpsmember

“SINCE I HAVE BEEN WORKING AT THE OCC, I HAVE GAINED MORE STRENGTH, I’VE BECOME MORE OUTGOING, AND HAVE LEARNED HOW TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN.”

As a single mother of 3 children, aged 1, 3, and 5, my children are my main focus in life. I was a struggling stay-at-home mother who realized that I needed to provide a stable income for them. A friend suggested that I contact the Corps, so I enrolled in the program and began working on the crew, learning about habitat restoration and trail maintenance. Within a year, I transferred to the recycling department to gain additional skills and learn about recyclables and e-waste before I went on maternity leave with my second child. Three years later, after my third child, I knew it was time to go back to work.

When I returned to the field crew, I was approached about becoming an Office Corpsmember. This was an excellent opportunity to acquire new administrative and customer service skills. Managing the front desk and assisting the staff has given me the confidence to look at new challenges and opportunities. During this time, I learned about the Santiago Canyon College Public Works program offered at the Corps. I was excited to imagine myself working in a profession that would provide me with a better future for myself and my children.

I recently completed my first 3-unit course in Plan Interpretation and Cost estimating and was so happy to discover that anything is possible if you go for it and don’t give up. Also, my kids were my biggest motivation to succeed in the program.

I plan to continue taking the next course in Public Works, and my goal is to complete the entire program and receive my Certificate of Achievement. I see myself working in any Public Works job that will help me continue learning and growing and better our community.

CORPSMEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Eric Gonzalez
Corpsmember

Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) provided me with an indispensable second chance in life. OCCC offered me the opportunity to learn how to work with a crew of inspired young adults, continue my education, and develop the necessary skills to ensure a better future career.

As a troubled youth, I floundered through school. After years of poor attendance and a growing lack of interest in my education, my school kicked me out. Thanks to the support of my school secretary recommending me to learn about OCCC, I was able to get back on my journey to continue my education and work at the same time.

Through OCCC, I learned how to use power tools and develop communication skills working with my crew. After a year with the Corps, I was motivated to return to school and get my high school diploma. My experience in the OCCC led me to enjoy working outdoors with my hands and being part of a great crew with my fellow Corpsmembers.

As a young father, inspired by my son to concentrate on achieving my goals, I have learned additional skills and developed more experience working with power tools. This past summer, I finally completed one of my goals, as I earned my high school diploma. I have gained a newfound perspective on work and school.

Recently, I enrolled in the Santiago Canyon College Public Works program. I loved knowing I was now a college student. The class was easy and fun, and I enjoyed learning about my future career. I plan on continuing with college, and my goal is to find a job with the County or Public Works. The Corps gave me a second chance, and I am grateful they were here for me.

“THE OCCC HAS BEEN A MILLION STEPPING STONES FOR HELPING ME CHANGE MY LIFE AND OPENING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE.”

COLLEGE & CAREER PREPARATORY ACADEMY HIGHLIGHT

Dave Connor, has worked in education for thirty-two years. With over twenty-five years of experience working with At-Promise Youth in Orange County. He has served as the Principal of Juvenile Court Schools, community programs and is currently Principal of the College and Career Preparatory Academy. Mr. Connor entered the field of education to positively influence the lives of his students and focus on providing students with the opportunities to **“Move Forward.”**

CCPA students 18-26 years old can enroll year-round and take the first step to earning their high school diplomas. At CCPA, young adults can make a change in their life and get back enrolled in school. Through Dave Connor’s dedicated leadership the College and Career Preparatory Academy has successfully provided our Corpsmembers with the ability to earn their High School Diplomas and earn job skills that will help them in future careers.

SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT



The **Orange County Conservation Corps** has launched an exciting new partnership with Santiago Canyon College, offering education opportunities and certification courses. Corpsmembers will receive on-the-job training while completing college credit towards a Public Works Certification.

CORPSMEMBER CONSERVATION WORK STATISTICS

Native Plants & Trees installed: **8,350**
 Miles of Public Roads & Alleyways Maintained: **125**
 Miles of Public Trails Maintained: **50**
 Acres of Invasive Vegetation Removed: **110**
 Miles of Flood Channels Maintained: **65**
 Illegally Abandoned Waste Tires Collected: **2,600**
 Pounds of Scrap Metal Recycled: **10,640**
 Pounds of E-Waste Collected: **127,400**
 Pounds of Beverage Containers Collected: **165,200**
 Certified Collection Centers Reviewed: **149**



THE DUCK FARM SAN GABRIEL RIVER PARKWAY PROJECT

These 31-acres of land alongside the 605 freeway in the San Gabriel Valley is one of the many projects Corpsmembers have worked on this year. The beautification of the trail includes installing over 35,000 plants and native trees. Corpsmembers helped with the trail restoration and overall improvements.

This operation has been monumental for the region and has been coming together with the teamwork of four different crews made of over 40 Corpsmembers. Through their arduous work and dedication, the official reopening of the trail was made available to the community.

OUR SPONSORS

Anaheim Community Foundation	City of Mission Viejo	North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative	The Albertsons Company Foundation
Angels Baseball Foundation	City of Orange	OC Department of Education College & Career Preparatory Academy	The City of Costa Mesa
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Anaheim-Cypress	City of Santa Ana	OC Health Care Agency	The Disneyland Resort
Brookhurst Community Center	City of Santa Ana	OC Probation Department	The Good Coin Foundation
California Conservation Corps	Workforce Development Board	Orange County Community Foundation	The Kroger Foundation
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	City of Stanton	Orange County Community Resources (OC Parks)	Underground Grit
California Department of General Services (Cal OES)	Community Action Partnership	Orange County Registrar of Voters	Union Bank
CalRecycle	County of Orange	Orange County Water District	Unite US
Charities Aid Foundation of America	Edison International	Project Kinship	Vineyard Church
City of Anaheim	El Dorado Foundation	Saddleback Church	Waste Management of Orange County
City of Anaheim Workforce Development Board	Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons	Samueli Foundation	Wells Fargo Foundation
City of Fullerton	George Hoag Foundation	Santa Ana Workforce Development Board	West Anaheim Youth Center
City of Garden Grove	Goodwill of Orange County	Santiago Canyon College	West Coast Arborists, Inc.
City of Huntington Beach	Irvine Ranch Water District	School's First Credit Union	Western Youth Services
City of Irvine	Laguna Canyon Foundation	Second Harvest Food Bank	Working Wardrobes
City of Laguna Beach	Laura's House	Servite High School Key Club	Wyland Foundation
City of Lake Forest	Marriott	SoCal Gas	
	Metropolitan Water District	State Farm	
	Moulton Niguel Water District		
	North Orange County Chamber of Commerce		

FINANCIALS

Financials Fiscal Year Ending - June 30, 2021

Grants from governmental agencies	3,067,381
Fee for service	2,533,297
Others	895,351
Total Revenue.....	6,496,029
Program Services.....	5,393,669
General & Administrative	452,275
Total Expense.....	5,845,944
Increase in Net Assets	650,085
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,206,445
Net Assets, End of Year	5,856,530



CONTACT US

714.956.6222
info@occorps.org
www.occorps.org

1853 N Raymond Ave, Anaheim,
CA 92801

SCAN ME

 /OCConservationcorps

 @oc_corps

 @HireYouth

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