


# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION CORPS





 Earn...Learn...Serve...  
Tools to Green the Future!

The OCCC's approach to employability teaches teamwork and cooperation by utilizing work projects that are beneficial to the community and the environment. We do this by creating an atmosphere where Corpsmembers have the chance to develop on an educational, professional and personal level while providing opportunities to access well-paying, long-term and meaningful jobs.

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# Message from the CEO

**KATHARYN O. MUÑIZ**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am beyond proud to share the remarkable achievements and milestones our Corpsmembers and staff have reached this year. The Orange County Conservation Corps is more than just a program—it's a lifeline for young adults, providing them with the opportunity to work, earn a living, and give back to their communities through impactful environmental stewardship that protects our planet for future generations.

I encourage you to explore the powerful partnerships that help drive our mission forward, playing a vital role in our success.

Be prepared to be moved by the inspiring stories of Janice Urrutia and Leslie Pompa—testaments to resilience, determination, and the transformative power of opportunity. And while their journeys will touch your heart, our impressive work statistics speak volumes about the tangible impact we're making.

Lastly, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to my executive management team for their unwavering dedication and teamwork. Our success would not be possible without them. A special thank you also goes to our Board of Directors, whose professional expertise is matched only by their passion for uplifting the most vulnerable young adults in our county.

With gratitude,



Katharyn O. Muniz

Chief Executive Officer



# Executive Staff



**Tony Huynh**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Jeremy Newton**  
Director of Operations



**Susan Soria**  
Senior Manager,  
Corpsmember  
Leadership &  
Development

# Board of Directors



**Paul Jaurequi**  
Chairman  
Vice President, Strategic  
Partnerships Incipio Group



**John Murillo**  
Vice Chair  
Market President,  
Enterprise Bank & Trust



**Albert J. Garcia**  
Treasurer  
Director, Environmental Services,  
Southern California Gas Co.



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



**Gary Alan Sheatz**  
Board Member  
Attorney at Law,  
Everett Dorrey LLP



**Christopher Abel**  
Board Member  
Communications  
Consultant



**Henry Barbosa**  
Emeritus Board Member  
Retired Attorney at Law



**Karen Klepack**  
Board Member  
Director, Business Operations,  
Prologis



**Genoveva Meza Talbott**  
Board Member  
Owner, Attorney at Law, Meza  
Talbott Law



**Kris Murray**  
Board Member  
Executive Director,  
Association of California  
Cities-Orange County



**Juanita Preciado**  
Board Member  
Retired - County of Orange



**Daisy Sarmiento**  
Board Member  
Retired - County of Orange

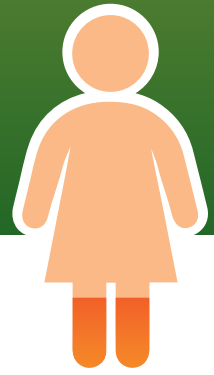


**Mark Yarter**  
Board Member  
National Print and  
Inventory Corp

# Corpsmember Demographics



80%  
MALE



20%  
FEMALE



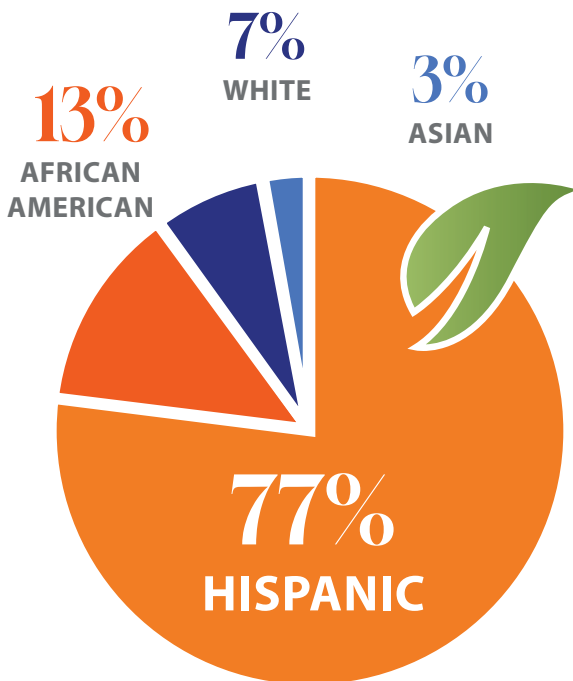
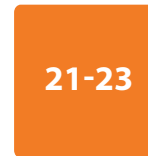
92%  
food  
insecure



11%  
parenting  
youth

## AGE RANGES

48% 32% 13% 7%



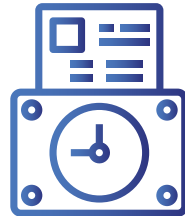
25% homeless  
or have experienced homelessness

19% justice-involved

# Corpsmember Development Outcomes



**32**  
**enrolled**  
in college or  
trade school



**149,811**  
**paid hours**



**8.4 MLbs.**  
**food distributed**  
to OC residents



**35** **obtained**  
**a certification**



**272,259** **filled boxes of food**  
for OC residents



**172**  
**employed**  
for first time



**40** **employed**  
**post-corps**



**35**  
**graduated**  
the Carpenters  
Training Program



**10**  
**obtained**  
a drivers license

# Alumnus Spotlight



## JANICE URRUTIA

Before discovering the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) two decades ago, Janice Urrutia's life was filled with challenges. As a high school dropout, she struggled and eventually found herself in jail. At a crossroads, she was presented with a life-changing decision: return to school, find employment, or risk falling back into old patterns. That's when the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) entered her life. Introduced to the program through the probation department, Janice decided to take a leap of faith, drawn to the Corps' unique combination of education and meaningful work.

On her first day as a Corpsmember, Janice was inspired by her supervisor's leadership and thought, "One day, I want to lead a crew like that." This moment ignited a vision for her future, and she devoted herself to making it a reality. Through determination and hard work, Janice graduated High School from OCCC's on-site Charter School and program and secured a position as a staff driver.

What made OCCC special for Janice was the opportunity to uplift others. She found immense joy in mentoring fellow Corpsmembers, witnessing their growth as they overcame challenges, and celebrating their achievements. Her leadership skills flourished as she advanced to Crew Supervisor, a role that honed her management abilities and reinforced her commitment to guiding others toward success.

After leaving OCCC, Janice joined OC Parks as a Groundskeeper. Her dedication and skill propelled her career forward, resulting in a promotion first to Maintenance Worker I and then to Maintenance Worker II. Over five years, she worked at Riley Wilderness Park, North Coastal, and the Orange County Zoo, gaining certifications and expertise in trail maintenance, verbal de-escalation, electrical, plumbing, and fire safety.



Today, Janice is a Maintenance Crew Lead I with Orange County Public Works, where she leads a team handling encampment cleanups and fence repairs. Her role allows her to apply the leadership foundation she built at OCCC while continuing to make a difference in her community.

Reflecting on her journey, Janice credits OCCC for providing her with more than just a second chance by equipping her with the tools, confidence, and community needed to transform her life. Now, she's aiming even higher, aspiring to become an Inspector or Supervisor with Orange County Public Works— all while balancing life as a devoted single mother. With her eldest daughter on the verge of earning her college degree, her middle daughter preparing to walk across the high school graduation stage, and her youngest navigating the adventures of 4th grade, Janice hopes her journey inspires current Corpsmembers to dream big, work hard, and seize every opportunity.

**“With determination, hard work,  
and the support of the OCCC, you  
can rewrite your future. I'm living  
proof.”**



# Alumnus Spotlight



## LESLIE POMPA

Growing up homeless for much of her childhood, Leslie Pompa and her family faced relentless challenges—living in their truck and motels while her father searched for steady work. As the third eldest of five siblings, Leslie often shouldered responsibilities far beyond her years, all while navigating the emotional weight of her sister’s kidney failure and her mother’s struggle with diabetes. Yet, against all odds, she became the first in her family to graduate high school—a milestone that marked the beginning of an extraordinary journey.

Leslie’s bond with her family was her anchor during turbulent times. When her brother Max joined OCCC, Leslie took on a part-time role to support their family. Inspired by the encouragement Max received through OCCC’s job training programs, she decided to become a Corpsmember herself.

Through the Anaheim CalifornianForAll Youth Job Corps grant, Leslie’s natural talents for leadership and compassion found a home at the Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center. There, she managed food and diaper distributions, mastered office administration, and discovered her passion for community service. Listening to families share struggles that mirrored her own fueled her determination to make a difference. Her drive to help led her to learn specialized computer systems, allowing her to provide crucial referrals and resources across multiple family resource centers.

Leslie’s dedication and resilience recently earned her a full-time role with the Illumination Foundation as a Referral Coordinator for Recuperative Care Services. In this position, she helps homeless individuals find safe spaces to heal and access housing after medical care. Looking ahead, Leslie is setting her sights on becoming a Social Worker for the County of Orange, committed to uplifting vulnerable



populations and creating meaningful change.

Leslie’s journey is a shining example of the human spirit’s capacity to rise above adversity. Her story inspires everyone at OCCC and beyond, proving that with resilience, determination, and a heart for service, it’s possible to transform even the most challenging circumstances into a force for good.

**“My experiences growing up gave me the strength to help others facing similar struggles. The Corps gave me the skills and confidence to make a real difference, and I’m committed to continuing that journey.”**

# Partnership Spotlight

## Breaking Barriers in Litter Abatement



The Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC), in collaboration with the Butte County Office of Education (BCOE), Caltrans, Clean California, and the Back 2 Work program, has reached an extraordinary milestone in litter abatement. Since March 2022, the partnership has cleared over 1 million pounds—500 tons—of litter and debris from freeways across North Orange County.

This achievement is part of the statewide Clean California initiative, which aims to tackle highway pollution, create safer roads, and promote sustainability. More than just improving the visual appeal of Orange County, this effort prevents harmful pollutants from infiltrating ecosystems, storm drains, and ultimately, the ocean.

OCCC's work goes beyond cleanup—it provides young adults with meaningful employment, educational growth, and career pathways into Caltrans and beyond. Through teamwork and dedication, OCCC and its partners are transforming local highways and communities—one freeway at a time.



# Partnership Spotlight

## Preserving the Magic in Garden Grove



For over 60 years, Atlantis Play Center has been a cherished haven for recreation and imagination in the heart of Garden Grove. Known for its sculpted dolphins, the iconic Wally the Whale, and playful sea creatures, this park has captured the hearts of generations. Beyond the enchantment of its design, the serene ponds with Red Racer turtles and lush greenery offer a tranquil escape for visitors of all ages.

For more than 20 years, the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) has proudly partnered with the City of Garden Grove to preserve and enhance this community treasure. OCCC Corpsmembers work alongside public works staff to ensure Atlantis remains safe, vibrant, and inviting. Their tasks include clearing leaf litter, painting handrails, managing weed abatement, and removing hazardous tree limbs—vital efforts that maintain both the park's beauty and its safety.

This partnership goes beyond routine maintenance; it's about keeping the spirit of Atlantis alive. By dedicating countless hours to its care, OCCC ensures that families can continue to make cherished memories in this iconic space.

As we celebrate over two decades of collaboration, OCCC is honored to play a role in safeguarding the magic of Atlantis Play Center. We remain committed to supporting this vibrant landmark for many more years to come, fostering joy, connection, and inspiration for all who visit.



# Partnership Spotlight

## Container Recycling



The Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) is making waves in sustainability by partnering with restaurants, bars, and hotels across Orange County to boost beverage container recycling. At events like Salute to America in Cypress, Corpsmembers actively engage with the community to promote recycling efforts. The OCCC Recycling Center also serves as a vital community resource, offering the public a clean, safe, and convenient location to redeem beverage containers for cash, encouraging responsible recycling practices.



## Waste Tire Recycling

Abandoned tires aren't just an eyesore—they're an environmental hazard. OCCC's dedicated crews actively patrol alleyways and collaborate with local agencies to remove illegally dumped tires. This initiative not only reduces litter but also prevents the spread of disease-carrying mosquitoes that can breed in stagnant water collected in discarded tires, contributing to a healthier environment.



# Partnership Spotlight

## E-waste Collection



OCCC teamed up once again with Disneyland Resorts for a successful drive-thru e-waste collection event, providing hundreds of residents with a convenient way to dispose of their electronics responsibly. This impactful partnership not only kept harmful materials out of landfills but also highlighted the power of collaboration. Together, OCCC and its Corpsmembers work hand-in-hand with local organizations to create a cleaner, greener community.



## Used Oil Recycling



With a focus on protecting our oceans and coasts, OCCC has teamed up with nonprofits to educate the public about responsible motor oil recycling. Through Dockwalker kits and hands-on guidance, OCCC makes it easier than ever for community members to take part in preserving our waterways.

By addressing diverse recycling needs, OCCC continues to lead efforts that protect our environment and improve the quality of life in our community.

# Corpsmember Conservation Work Statistics

Field Department  
July 2023 - June 2024



**3,162** Native Plants & Trees Installed



**335** Miles of Public Roads and Alleyways Maintained



**129** Miles of Public Trails Maintained



**191** Acres of Invasive Vegetation Removed

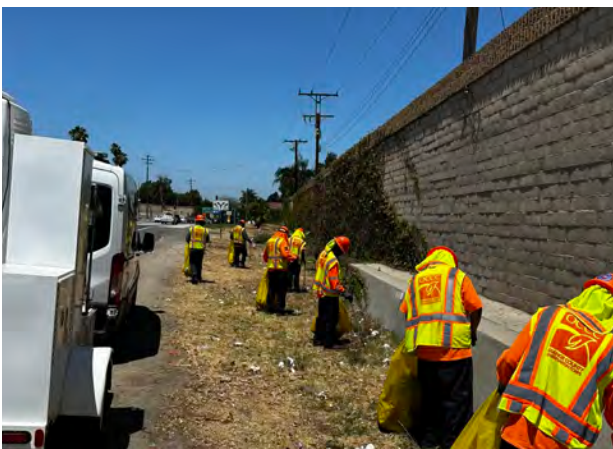


**175** Miles of Flood Control Channels Maintained



**1,250** Miles of Public Highways Cleaned

**495,530** Pounds of litter removed from OC Highways



# Corpsmember Conservation Work Statistics

Recycle Department  
July 2023 - June 2024



**529,903** Beverage Containers (lbs.)



**74,149** E-waste (lbs.)



**3,039** Waste Tires (ct.)



**2,576** Waste Tire Rims (lbs.)



**8,640** Scrap Metal (lbs.)



**145** Used Oil Collection Centers Reviewed (ct.)



**47** Community Events Participated In (ct.)



# Our Sponsors & Supporters



ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION CORPS

1831

10Twenty-Four Corporation  
Abound Food Care  
Advancing Justice  
Affordable Housing Clearing House  
Allied Universal Security Services  
Anaheim Chamber of Commerce  
Anaheim Independencia  
Bracken's Kitchen  
Butte County Office of Education  
California Community Foundation  
California Conservation Corps  
California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection  
California Job Challenge  
California Local Conservations Corps Foundation  
California State Parks - Boating and Waterways  
California Volunteers  
Caltrans  
CAP OC - OC Food Bank  
Carpenters Training Partners  
Charitable Ventures of Orange County  
City of Anaheim - Community Services  
City of Anaheim - Public Works  
City of Anaheim - Workforce Investment Board  
City of Fullerton  
City of Garden Grove  
City of Irvine  
City of La Habra  
City of Laguna Beach  
City of Lake Forest  
City of Orange  
City of Santa Ana - Workforce Investment

Board  
City of Stanton  
City of Yorba Linda  
Department of Conservation - Calrecycle  
Disneyland Resorts  
EduTrack CNA School  
El Dorado Foundation  
El Modena Family Resource center  
Employment Development Department  
Enterprise Bank & Trust Foundation  
Familia Gonzalez Reynoso Foundation  
Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons  
Food Finders  
Fullerton Arboretum  
Garden Grove School District  
Giving Children Hope  
Goodwill of Orange County  
Homeless Intervention Services of OC  
Homeless Outreach Court  
Honda Center  
Hope Builders  
Hyundai Motors of North America  
International Paper  
Jiffy Lube  
John Muir Charter School  
Jose Sandoval & Family  
La Habra Cooperative  
Laborers Union  
Laguna Canyon Foundation  
Mark Yarter & Family  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Nonprofits' United

Northgate Markets  
OC Cares  
OC Parks  
OC Public Work  
Office of the Public Defender County of Orange  
Olaunu  
Orange County Credit Union  
Orange County New Car Association  
Orange County Water District  
Orange International Street Fair  
Orangewood Foundation  
Pacific Life Foundation  
Painted Brain  
Panera Bread  
Patriots and Paws  
Peggy Dougherty & Family  
Pfaffinger Foundation  
Plasterers Union  
Project Kindship  
Radiant Future  
Ready S.E.T. OC  
Recovery Road  
Republic Services  
Serve The People  
Southern California Edison  
Southern California Gas Company  
Southwest Carpenters Union (714)  
Southwest Community Center  
Sunburst Youth Academy  
The HUB OC  
VSK Healthcare Institute  
Waste Management of Orange County



# Financials Fiscal Year<sup>2</sup>

## Ending June 30, 2024



Grants from Governmental Agencies	\$4,777,581
Fee For Service	\$2,403,621
Other	\$225,595
<hr/>	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,406,797</b>



Program Services	\$6,449,449
General & Administrative	\$626,395
<hr/>	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$7,075,844</b>



Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$5,890,108
Net Assets, End of Year	\$6,221,061
<hr/>	
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$330,953</b>



ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION CORPS

 (714) 956-6222

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 [www.occorps.org](http://www.occorps.org)

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Anaheim, CA 92801

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Conservation Corps](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Orange-County-Conservation-Corps)



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