



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact**

Brian Dozer  
Vital Link  
949.646.2520  
Brian@VitalLinkOC.org

**VITAL LINK PARTNERED WITH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
TO RAISE \$179,519 DURING “THE FUTURE IS WORKING” GIVING DAY**

**24-Hour Fundraiser Helps Vital Link Deliver Career Pathway Education in Orange County**

TUSTIN, Calif. (March 26, 2021) — On March 25, [Vital Link](#) partnered with the [Orange County Community Foundation](#) (OCCF) and ten colleague nonprofits for *The Future is Working* Giving Day, a 24-hour online effort to bolster stronger workforce opportunities in Orange County. [Vital Link](#) today announced 87 donors helped raise **\$10,824** to support Career exploration opportunities for Orange County’s disadvantaged students. In total, OCCF’s Giving Day raised 200% more than expected, totaling \$179,519.

Vital Link is dedicated to providing participants with a headstart towards their desired field of work. The funds raised during *The Future is Working* surpassed an initial \$10,000 goal by 108%. The \$10,824 raised will make it possible for under represented students to have opportunities to explore STEM focused careers, find business mentors, and connect with colleges and training programs that will lead to their dream careers.

“We are grateful to our community’s support for our programs and outreach to underserved students. The overwhelming response we received from small dollar donors demonstrated the community’s appreciation for our mission to ensure that our region’s students have a headstart on well-paying careers,” commented Vital Link President, Brian Dozer.

*The Future is Working* Giving Day is an opportunity for donors to be part of a combined effort to build pipelines of opportunity through living-wage employment at a critical time. The [2020-2021 Orange County Community Indicators Report](#) reveals that Orange County unemployment skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic and remains at historically high levels with a reduction of nearly 195,000 jobs as of July 2020 – translating to a 283% increase in total unemployment. Research also shows that those job losses have had a larger impact on our most vulnerable populations. Nearly 90,000 of those jobs were lost in the leisure, hospitality, or retail sectors – sectors that traditionally employ more people who are immigrants and/or people of color<sup>1</sup>.

The pandemic has prompted a heightened urgency to address workforce development – and *The Future is Working* collaborative Giving Day supported 11 Orange County nonprofits continuing to help employers, workers, students, and the most vulnerable residents adjust to rapidly changing economic conditions.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://charitableventuresoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/OCCRF-Evaluation-Report-August-Final.pdf>

Participating nonprofits included [Vital Link](#) and [Chrysalis](#); [CIELO](#); [Community Action Partnership Orange County](#); [Hart Community Homes, Inc.](#); [High School, Inc.](#); [Kherut](#); [JVS SoCal](#); [Orange County Conservation Corps](#); [Taller San Jose Hope Builders](#); and [Youth Employment Service](#).

“OCCF is proud to support the collective efforts of our local nonprofits committed to bolstering equitable opportunity for Orange County’s workforce,” said Shelley Hoss, president and CEO of the Orange County Community Foundation. “We are grateful to all of the donors and our entire community for the outpouring of support for *The Future is Working* Giving Day.”

For more information about **Vital Link** visit <https://www.vitallinkoc.org/>. More information on Orange County Community Foundation Collaborative Giving Days, can be found at [oc-cf.org/givingdays](http://oc-cf.org/givingdays).

### **About Vital Link**

Vital Link is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing students for their future careers through experiential learning opportunities. We offer programs that introduce students to the world of robotics, engineering, manufacturing, healthcare and medical, computer programming, digital media arts, automotive technology and much more. Through these hands-on programs, we inspire students to feel confident and excited to pursue a fulfilling career.

### **About Orange County Community Foundation**

Founded in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) works with donors, strengthens the local nonprofit sector and works to find solutions to community needs. Since its inception, OCCF has awarded nearly \$780 million in grants and scholarships, placing the organization in the top two percent in grantmaking among U.S. community foundations. For more information, visit [oc-cf.org](http://oc-cf.org) or call 949-553-4202. Be a part of our conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). View OCCF's 2020 annual report [here](#).

###