



The Lamp Post

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.
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Women and Philanthropy....a shift in the tide

“Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life’s blood. But everyone has something to give.” Barbara Bush

When philanthropist Abigail Disney dared an audience to stretch their giving, she was prepared to put her money where her mouth was. “I want you to give until it hurts,” she said, promising to match the amount up to \$1 million.

Three months later, more than \$2.6 million had been raised for the New York Women’s Foundation and other causes.

In a Chinese province near the Tibetan border, two women—one from Hong Kong, the other Taiwanese—are helping thousands of yak herders build a better life for their families through a new social enterprise called *Shokay*. The company buys a downy yak fiber from the herders and makes upscale

“yashmere” blankets and sweaters for sale to wealthy city dwellers.

40-year-old Jennifer Kozak did not come from a family that gave away a lot of money. Born in a rural area, she spent her childhood without the convenience of an air conditioner or a clothes dryer. Today she has her own graphic design firm, clips coupons and drives a Volvo that’s seen over 200,000 miles—and she is a member of a Women’s Giving Circle that has given more than \$1 million to 77 charities in the Baltimore, MD area.

What do these women have in common? They are among the many who are changing the profile of philanthropy and philanthropists around

the world.

Women have never before been so aware of their own power to force social change. Armed with greater independence and know-how, they are writing bigger checks and giving in larger numbers than in the past.

So why is it so important that women are taking an active role in philanthropy?

Philanthropy plays a critical role and has a dedicated responsibility in shaping society and advancing equity and social justice. Combine that with women’s unique and pivotal role in the creation of a better society, and the results can be substantial.

Women will also soon have greater resources to contribute. Because women are

“WHEN WOMEN ARE FULLY INVOLVED, THE BENEFITS CAN BE SEEN IMMEDIATELY; FAMILIES ARE HEALTHIER; THEY ARE BETTER FED; THEIR INCOME, SAVINGS AND REINVESTMENTS GO UP. AND THAT IS TRUE OF COMMUNITIES, AND EVENTUALLY OF WHOLE COUNTRIES.”

Kofi Annan

(cont’d to back page)

Boot-stompin’ Good Time at the Hoedown!



John and Evelyn Noblitt mug for the camera during the 2007 Hoedown event.

Would-be cowboys and their pretty “pardners” gathered at Wilstem Farm in October for the Foundation’s first-ever heel-kickin’ Hoedown.

To the music of Gene Autry and Roy Rogers and amid scenes of old-time saloons and dangerous desperadoes, participants milled

around baskets of goodies lined up for a silent auction, kidded one another about their western wear, and worked up an appetite for barbeque pork chops and all the fixin’s. After the chuckwagon closed up, Grand Ole Opry funny man Bob Farmer entertained everyone with laughs and down-home wis-

dom.

At the stroke o’ nine, the basket auction was complete. Winners wrote their checks and toted home food, chocolate, coffee, decorations, bath items, restaurant certificates, and a lot more treats to remember the evenin’ by.

Thanks to all who came!!

The Lamp Post



Leon Johnson proudly holds the clock awarded him as 2007 Male Philanthropist of the Year.

Leon Johnson Named 2007 Male Philanthropist

Amidst the glimmer and glamour of the Windsor Ballroom of French Lick's Resort, Leon Johnson shined brightest.

Named the 2007 Male Philanthropist of the Year at the annual meeting of the Orange County Community Foundation, Johnson received his award with customary humility and wisdom. He spoke briefly of the love he has for Orange County, and how privileged he felt to have been sufficiently

blessed to make a difference here.

Among Mr. Johnson's many contributions to the people of Orange County are the three endowments for which he is largely responsible for creating, benefiting the Wonder Valley Christian Service Camp, the Orleans School Foundation Scholarship, and the Syria Christian Church Scholarship.

In addition to his fiscal philanthropy, Leon has given

selflessly of his time and talents over the year, with endless hours of service to his church, his family, and his community.

We salute Mr. Johnson and his entire family for their brilliant example of local philanthropy and how it can make a difference in the community.

OCCF Welcomes New Funds

The establishment of new funds at OCCF this year represented the human spirit's triumph over tragedy, as well as a desire to face the ongoing challenge of meeting needs within Orange County.

New scholarships, as well as scholarships finding their way back home, are now providing funding for area students who would otherwise struggle with meeting college costs.

Specified funds provide monies for missionaries, Boy Scouts, and historical preservation.

Through the generosity of local donors and the caring devotion of nation-wide givers, these funds, which total more than \$590,000, will forever enrich the lives of Orange Countians and provide relief to innumerable charities.

NEW FUNDS

- WILLIAM AND MILDRED HOKE MEMORIAL FUND
- CHUCK AKERS MEMORIAL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP
- BHOC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
- FRENCH LICK H.S. ALUMNI ASSN. SCHOLARSHIP
- SUGARMAN TRUST SCHOLARSHIP
- ROSETTA MAE ATKINSON MEMORIAL SCHOL.
- RUSSELL O. DOAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
- RAY GARDNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
- ARMINTA SUE MAGNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
- MEDICAL MISSIONS INT'L (MMI-GO) FUND
- JOHNNIE ROBBINS FUND FOR BOY SCOUT TROOP

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IRA Charitable Rollover Update

The charitable rollover of IRAs under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 is due to expire on December 31, 2007.

In March of 2007, Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Carolina and Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine introduced legislation that would extend the IRA charitable rollover option permanently, as well as remove the \$100,000 cap and reduce the eligible age from 70.5 to 59.5 years old. Senate Bill

819, the Public Good IRA Rollover Act, was subsequently referred to the Senate Finance Committee for further deliberation.

Also introduced by Rep. Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota and Wally Herger of California was H.R. 1419 in the House of Representatives, a resolution describing an act that would accomplish the same goals as S.B. 819. Their resolution, H.B. 1419, has been referred to

the House Ways and Means Committee.

At the age of 70 and one half years, IRA owners must withdraw a portion of their IRA funds, and incur an income tax liability in doing so. The charitable IRA rollover allows owners to roll IRA funds directly over to a charitable organization, with no tax liability. The ability to do so is particularly beneficial to those IRA owners who have a surplus of

income and do not need to make annual withdrawals. It enables them to transfer money to a charity without paying income taxes. Older Americans who do not itemize deductions also benefit from the rollover, as they would not otherwise receive any credit for their contributions. To support new legislation extending the IRA charitable rollover option, contact your Congressmen.

No Child in Orange County Left Behind...

Making good on a promise made more than a year ago, the Orange County Commissioners Supporting Organization provided funding to pay for schoolbooks for every student in Orange County this year.

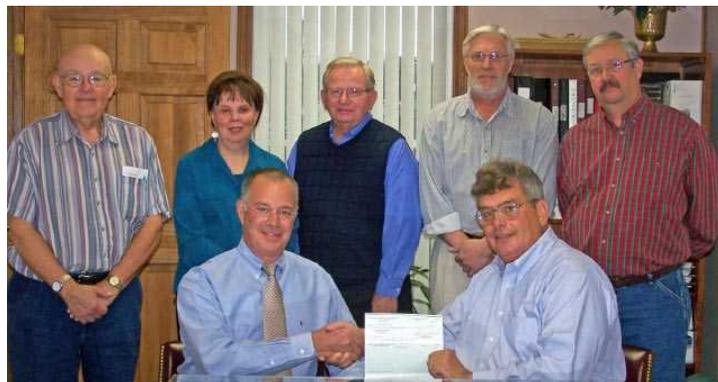
In an economically-depressed county, the cost of textbooks can be a great burden on parents, particularly along with the need for school clothes and supplies.

Every child in Orange County's public schools, from

Kindergarten through grade 12, received textbooks free of charge this school year, freeing up family funds and enabling parents to more amply provide further needs for their children.

In granting these funds to provide schoolbooks, as well as a \$50,000 grant to be divided among the three county school corporations for any purpose the schools deem necessary, the Supporting Organization is making its first step toward addressing vital needs within Orange

County through the use of casino revenues.



Members of the OC Commissioners Supporting Organization present a check for textbooks to Paoli Community Schools Superintendent, Dr. Alva Sibbitt.

2007 Donor Appreciation Dinner

The annual meeting of the OCCF Board of Directors, held on Dec. 4 at the French Lick Resort, highlighted donor appreciation and the achievements made possible by our donors throughout the fiscal year 2006-2007. Specially recognized were 2007 Philanthropists of the Year, Marilyn Fenton of French Lick, who was honored at the Women in Philanthropy luncheon at Caesar's this past April, and Leon Johnson of

Orleans, who received his initial presentation at the meeting.

Following dinner, keynote speaker Jerry Finn, executive director of the Caesar's Foundation, gave an informative delivery on the accomplishments of that foundation, which channels casino funding into a variety of grant-making opportunities. Also on the agenda was Joe Bill Wiley of Capital Cities In-

vestments, and Mark McCormick of the Melhiser, Endres and Tucker CPA firm. MET had just completed OCCF's annual audit. Both men praised OCCF's achievements and practices, and commented on the quality of services offered to donors by OCCF.



2007 Male philanthropist of the year Leon Johnson and female philanthropist of the year Marilyn Fenton share a mutual congratulations at the donor appreciation dinner.

"GOOD NEIGHBOR" Opens Doors

Larry Hollan is the epitome of a "Good Neighbor". Not only is he actually a neighbor of the foundation, living just across the street; but he was very neighborly in opening his home to a fund-raising event on Dec. 16. Guests were encouraged to tour Mr. Hollan's fully-restored 19th century home, as well as nosh on appetizers and wine and enjoy musical selections pro-

vided every hour by members of the Orange County Players.

Generous donors left more than \$3,000.00 under the beautifully decorated Christmas tree during the four-hour event, benefiting six separate funds held at the Orange County Community Foundation. What a very merry Christmas present!



Guests gather for musical entertainment at the Dec. 16 open house at Larry Hollan's.



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GIVING CIRCLES...

A giving circle is a simple concept. Members of the circle each give a set amount of funding within a specified timeline. The amounts given are pooled together to make grants in a common area of interest. For example, a giving circle may be formed to provide funding to a local hospital for specific health issues, or to address environmental or educational concerns, or any other charitable interest.

Giving circles, or "social investment clubs" as they are also known, are very flexible and allow members to express their creativity. They allow for a wide range of giving styles, philosophies, sizes and focus areas. Common elements include a diverse and active membership, and a desire to learn about and practice community philanthropy.

Members of giving circles engage in their own decision-making processes, learn about grant-making, understand the importance of philanthropy as a vehicle for social change, and connect communities with causes for which they are most passionate.

Today there are more than 400 giving circles active in the United States, all started by caring, concerned individuals and hosted by public or community foundations dedicated to philanthropy.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in starting a giving circle, please feel free to call our Program Manager, Cyndi Goerres, for details and assistance. Our number is 812-723-4150, or visit our website at orangecountycommunityfoundation.org.

Women and Philanthropy *(continued from front page)*

generally longer-lived than men, they are poised to inherit substantial wealth in the coming years which they in turn may pass on to their daughters, creating the largest-ever inter-generational shift of money.

Though the face of philanthropy has changed, with nearly half of all foundation CEOs and 70% of program officers being women, less than ten percent of all overall funding is aimed at programs that directly impact women and girls.

From the international arena, it has been learned that the most successful investments

fully integrate a gender analysis, because it strengthens the effectiveness of grant-making programs overall. Needs are different between men and women, as seen in the 20th Century struggle for women's suffrage in the United States.

More than ever, women's lives are multi-faceted, and viable solutions are needed to address the issues affecting them, so women themselves have stepped up to meet that challenge.

Women all over the world have joined in Giving Circles, organized to provide large sums of money from smaller

individual contributions made on a regular and dedicated basis (see related article). In rural areas worldwide, women have taken a leading role in establishing economic development programs that enable residents to provide for themselves and their families, as well as established health care facilities and programming for better nutrition.

Nurturing comes naturally to most of the "gentler sex", so it's only natural that women, once armed with the means, will take a more active role in the care and treatment of living creatures everywhere.