



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

**“Connecting our community with nature!”**



### OC Hiking Mission Statement

The Orange County Hiking Club, is a charitable 501c3 nonprofit which exists to promote physical, mental and emotional wellness through connection with nature. In addition to outdoor recreation for our members, OC Hiking Club nurtures stewardship that protects trails for future generations and provides education, encouragement and nature-empowerment for people of all ages, families and at-risk youth through mentorship and leadership development in the outdoors.

## Message from our OC Hiking Club President

Dear OC Hiker,

Thank you for a great year! It is hard to believe that our little nonprofit the Orange County Hiking Club (OCHC) turned 9 in 2015!

**It's because of your dedication and support that our membership grew to 13,000 members in 2015. With growth and success come challenges.**

**Our Kids In Need of Nature program is thriving, but needs your financial support to keep it going.** This program offers positive and educational outdoor experiences to Orange County's underserved youth. We are getting youth out on the trail with wonderful role models and mentoring.

Additionally, we are improving our exemplary trail system through an expanded *Trail Guardians* program. **Trail Guardians helps us keep more trails in good condition and protects and preserves our wildlands and trails.**

I am very proud of all that OCHC has accomplished on a shoestring budget. Remember, **all donations to OCHC are tax deductible** to the fullest extent of the law.

We look forward to 2016 as a year of financial growth to catch up with our physical growth. As you take a closer look at full range of our activities and the benefits they provide to our community, **please help us find new ways to reach our potential.**

And thank you again for your generous support.

*Suki Reed*

Suki Reed  
President  
OC Hiking Club/Hike Everywhere  
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**"Your donation connects our  
community with nature!"**

Through your help the OC Hiking Club nature-empowers thousands of families, adults, children and underserved youth each year.

Your donation is ensuring the permanence and longevity of the OC Hiking Club.

- Nature-empowering all ages
- Kids in Need of Nature
- Trail Guardian Certification & Stewardship
- Wilderness Awareness & Volunteerism



## **A Look at 2015**

The OC Hiking Club reached close to 13,000 members in 2015. The Club held over 1,200 hikes and outdoor events last year and we hope to surpass that next year! We are blessed with serving members of all ages and all walks of life. And through your support we will continue serving our community for years to come. Some of the hikes took place in Orange County's

remarkable park system, including, but not limited to:

- San Joaquin Marsh
- Casper's Wilderness Park
- Hiltscher Park
- Shady Canyon
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
- Turtle Rock
- Central Park Huntington Beach
- Upper Newport Bay

### **KIDS IN NEED OF NATURE**

*Kids in Need of Nature* events take at-risk youth out on the trail. These positive educational outdoor excursions require careful planning and preparation. These hikes are led by our most experienced volunteer Hike Organizers. The agencies whose youth we serve extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated volunteers. These agencies include:

- CASA
- RAISE Foundation
- GOALS
- GRIP (Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership)
- SOY (Save our Youth) and others.

## TRAIL GUARDIANS

In 2011, OCHC began the *Trail Guardians* program. Four years later and the program is still going strong. We are continuing to protect and preserve our wildlands and trails by training additional volunteer Guardians. During training our *Trail Guardians* gain a better understanding of park operations and how they can assist park staff in monitoring trail conditions and identifying problems. In addition to removing trash, *Trail Guardians* help with other trail duties such as; moving small hazards off trails and reporting issues to park staff.

The 2015 Trail Guardians enthusiastically covered a documented 600 trail miles and even more undocumented miles on the trail. Our goal is to develop a cadre of hiking enthusiasts who are trained to be better stewards of our public lands and trails. What an achievement!



## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The heart and backbone of OCHC are the *Volunteer Hike Organizers*, our dedicated volunteers who organize hikes, offer their special expertise to help other hikers and work within the community to keep expanding outdoor opportunities. It takes many hours to organize a hike—it doesn't matter if it is local or out of town. It can take days or weeks of planning as:

- Trails must be evaluated,
- Permits obtained,
- Equipment inventories, and
- Supply requirements determined.

Hikes of varying levels are offered—from beginners though advanced—to meet the needs of all levels.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Well over 10,000 hours were volunteered in 2015. The non-profit resource organization Independent Sector estimates the value of that time at \$23.07 per hour. That's equates to \$230,700 of donated time. Thank you to our volunteers!

## A Glance at 2015

Our speedy growth has our support staff nearly bursting at the seams. Our success has grown beyond the budget and we hope to find more effective ways of funding nature-empowerment for our community in 2016. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

We hope to continue offering all of our outdoor programs including:

- Additional outdoor adventures to at-risk youth,
- Both local and out of town hikes for trail enthusiasts, and
- Rise to the fundraising challenge to meet our expanding needs!



## 2015 Board of Directors

### **Suki Reed, President**

Suki is an advocate for nature, outdoor education, and the need to keep America's most at risk children active. Hiking is a passion for Suki, who has hiked since the age of two when her father carried her in his backpack on wilderness outings. As a native Californian she enjoys all outdoor sports and especially hiking and has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.

### **Neil Fricke, Vice President**

Neil is a retired Licensed Customs Broker. He is a native Californian raised in LA County. He enjoys hiking and outdoor photography and is credited with the photos for this year's annual report. Neil has been hiking since high school and his favorite hike is Sturtevant Falls.

### **Brian George, Director**

Brian is a Business Development Manager in Irvine with a background in Finance and Technology. As a native Californian he enjoys being outdoors; hiking, running and taking their dog to dog beach. Brian and his wife, Lisa, can often be found exploring new trails for the OCHC. Some of his favorite hiking areas so far include; Zion, Big Bear and anywhere in the high Sierra's he can get to.

## 2015 Financial Statement

### STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Category	Program Services	Management & General Expenses	Fundraising	Total
Consulting & Professional Fees	\$23,242.00	\$3,054.00	\$3,906.00	\$30,202.00
Fundraising	---	---	\$220.00	\$220.00
Office Expenses & Supplies	\$818.00	\$189.00	\$252.00	\$1,258.00
Operational Expenses	\$1,882.00	\$407.00	\$542.00	\$2,831.00
Volunteer Recognition	---	---	---	---
Website/Internet	\$326.00	---	\$36.00	\$362.00
Staff Development	\$40.00	---	---	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$26,307.00	\$3,650.00	\$4,956.00	\$34,913.00
	75%	10%	14%	

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<https://doublethedonation.com/oc-hiking-club>

