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## Hundreds of Real Estate and Building Industry Leaders Mobilize to Support United Way’s Housing Programs

### *Annual “Real Estate & Business Industry Mixer” Raises Nearly \$200,000 to Help United Way Tackle Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Orange County*

IRVINE, CA (October 21, 2014) – Hundreds of building and real estate leaders joined United Way for a sunset networking reception at Balboa Bay Club while supporting the organization’s strategy to battle homelessness and housing insecurity throughout Orange County.

The annual Real Estate & Business Industry Mixer celebrates the industry’s collective impact on local issues through FACE 2024, United Way’s ten year community-wide action plan tackling the community’s most critical Education, Income, Health and Housing barriers.

Max Gardner, Orange County United Way’s President and CEO and a former housing industry executive, said, “Today, more than 26,000 children and their families are living in unstable situations. We can cut this figure in half by 2024 and the leaders here are uniquely positioned to not only lend their financial support, but to advocate for change.”

The event commenced with a short program highlighting the housing needs in Orange County as well as real life examples showcased in a video called Home for Good, which highlights some of United Way’s work in Rapid Rehousing. Attendees learned, for example, that more than 1,500 children live in motel rooms and over 24,000 children are in need of a stable home. Throughout the evening, guests were offered the opportunities to make investments via a matching challenge grant from the Seimer Institute that United Way had received prior to the event.

Laura Khouri, president of Western National Property Management and event chair noted, “United Way is uniquely positioned to address housing issues in Orange County because they have a vast network of strategic partners from all sectors that share the same goals in making Orange County an even better place to work and live. I have no doubt that we can all come together to reach the community-wide aspiration of ending homelessness.”

The event raised nearly \$200,000 to tackle the challenges facing local children and families. To learn more about the Community Impact Fund or the FACE 2024 plan, please visit the [Orange County United Way website](http://www.unitedwayoc.org).

### **ABOUT ORANGE COUNTY UNITED WAY**

Since 1924, Orange County United Way has been working to improve lives and strengthen our community by mobilizing the caring power of Orange County, by focusing on the building blocks for a good quality of life: Education, Income, Health and Housing. By investing in Orange County’s children, families and individuals, we help them create pathways to self-sufficient futures through education and training. In short, we help people help themselves. Through our 10-year initiative “FACE 2024” (an acronym for Fund, Advocate, Collaborate, Educate), United Way is mobilizing local businesses, community organizations, governmental agencies and individuals to make a long-term measurable difference in the lives of local individuals and families. To learn more or to join our movement, visit [www.unitedwayoc.org](http://www.unitedwayoc.org).