A MESSAGE FROM OCEAN INSTITUTE’S PRESIDENT ON SUPPORT

DANA POINT (March 17, 2020)

Dear Ocean Institute Supporter and Friend,

We are navigating unprecedented times as a result of the coronavirus. Ocean Institute has been hit hard as school restrictions have caused a complete wipeout of our programs during our highest revenue generating season- which is the fuel that propels us through the rest of the year.

Additionally, we had to postpone the Ocean Institute Fest until September- our biggest annual fundraiser that was to occur later this month.

It has been a complete cascade for us – as it has for so many others. On 3.16.20 we announced to our team that the Ocean Institute must shut down in compliance with the restrictions related to social gatherings.

We are stripping down and prioritizing keeping the animals alive, fundraising, and maintaining the minimum infrastructure to stretch our resources out as far as possible.

As I write this, I am still shocked at what has transpired here in the last 8 days. We remain hopeful that things will swing up in the right direction- but can’t let hope get in the way of doing everything I can to make sure we sustain through this.

I am humbly asking for your considering of emergency support for OI operations - in any amount. To give online, please click HERE

We know the storm will pass but are very concerned about withstanding it.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Dr. Wendy Marshall

President, Education and Operations

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About Ocean Institute
Ocean Institute is a highly respected ocean science, maritime history and experiential education nonprofit located in Dana Point Harbor, California. Its modern campus is adjacent to the Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area, and encompasses 33,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits, science labs and an aquarium collection of 1,100 live specimens of local marine life. Central to its unique identity throughout California, Ocean Institute operates two impressive tall ships, Spirit of Dana Point and Pilgrim, a replica of the ship made famous by Richard Henry Dana Jr. in his epic memoir “Two Years Before the Mast.” Ocean Institute also operates the 70-foot research vessel Sea Explorer. Over a span of forty years Ocean Institute has enriched the lives of two million California students with a mission of “using the ocean as our classroom, we inspire children to learn.” Ocean Institute serves over 100,000 students, teachers and families each year with a hands-on approach to ocean-related science, research and conservation. Ocean Institute’s diverse elementary, middle and high school program inventory is STEM-focused and aligned with California Common Core Standards. To learn more about Ocean Institute, including the annual Tall Ships Festival presented by Toshiba and Ocean Institute Fest, please visit www.oceaninstitute.org.