

THE CHAMBER Came Through

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the biggest tests that our community has ever faced, the resiliency of our business community has been a bright spot that will shine for years to come. In its 125 years of existence, it is unlikely that the business community has ever needed the Chamber as much as it did in the past year. From the perspective of our local small businesses, the Chamber Came Through in a multitude of ways over the past year. Here are a few examples of how the Chamber has supported the survival and success of Oceanside's businesses...

"When the COVID-19 crisis hit, our need to connect with other businesses still remained. The Chamber came through by quickly creating meaningful and interactive virtual networking events. We were impressed with their ability to partner with neighboring Chambers in order to allow us to expand our network and reach a greater audience."



Christopher Weiner, Print Master, AlphaGraphics – Oceanside

"I just wanted to commend you, and the rest of the Chamber for keeping all of us up to date on all the changes during this pandemic. I am a small business owner and found this information so useful. We were able to keep up with SBA changes, loans etc. Each time an email came thru, I was forwarding it to friends and family. The Oceanside Chamber came through for us, and I think your organization is amazing."



Myra Hoch, Owner, Strong Feels Good Fitness

"When we were struggling to get assistance on our PPP Loan application with one of the large financial institutions, the Chamber came through by connecting us with Frontwave Credit Union. Frontwave took great care of us and treated us like we mattered to them. Their assistance with the PPP loan helped us weather the COVID storm."



Zell Dwelley, Owner, Beach Break Cafe

"During times of crisis like our businesses have faced in the past year, business owners need timely information and answers to important questions. The Chamber came through with strong access to elected officials through its Emerging Issues Forum. As a Chamber member, I was impressed that I could attend and participate in a videoconference that included our Congressman, State Assemblymember, County Supervisor and Mayor. Membership offers access I could not have found elsewhere."



Joanna Hunter, President/Owner, True West Facility Supply|Oceanside

"When we needed to be sure we had the most up to date information on business closures and reopenings, loan programs and other resources to navigate the COVID-19 crisis, the Oceanside Chamber came through. Their staff took the time to make sure we had the answers we needed in order to move forward."



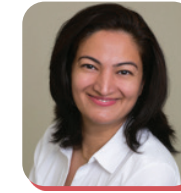
Tom Son, General Manager, Arrowood Golf Course

"Now more than ever, we need City leadership that understands the importance of supporting our business community. The Chamber has displayed its support for businesses by endorsing and helping elect Council members Ryan Keim and Peter Weiss. We now have a strong foundation for rebuilding our business community and emerging from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 crisis."



Neil Nagata, Nagata Bros Farms

"Being a small business owner, an unexpected lockdown was a very challenging time. Struggling to get the PPP loan to cover the business expenses was so hard (with big bank's scams to only pick applications for big organizations). The Oceanside Chamber of Commerce came through as a resource during this challenging time and provided all the assistance/consultations a small business can ask for. It makes a great positive impact when you know you have support from a team of experienced people who are there to help you navigate through this difficult time."



Nita Arora, Owner / Center Director, Mathnasium of Oceanside North

"Many of our local families have been seriously impacted financially by the events of 2020. When food insecurity became a growing issue, the Chamber came through with its North County Cares Program. This program provided tangible help to our local families by providing nearly \$40,000 in restaurant gift cards that we distributed to more than 1700 Oceanside families."



Deb Wickman, Oceanside Unified School District, Family Engagement – Teacher on Special Assignment

"The Privateer Restaurants appreciates the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce for its generous purchase of gift certificates for the North County Cares project. Like for all our restaurant community, things have been tough, and that influx of revenue was very helpful. The Chamber came through for us in a big way!"



Charlie Anderson, Owner, Privateer Coal Fire Pizza

"Small businesses have been impacted in terrible ways by government mandated closures associated with COVID-19. When we needed a strong voice for our business, the Chamber came through by tirelessly advocating for fair treatment of small businesses."



Juan Velasco, Co-Owner, Slight Edge Salon

"Many small businesses like ours experienced a significant financial downturn in 2020. The Chamber came through for us with a small business grant. We appreciate their proactive response to make sure we were aware of the opportunity."



Dan and Kim Roy, Owner, Fully Promoted of Oceanside

"I am proud to be a part of the Oceanside Chamber! When the restaurant industry needed a strong voice to push back against unfair closure mandates, the Chamber came through for us and made sure our voices were heard."



Kristin Cates, Owner, Rookies Restaurant & Sports Bar

"The Chamber came through by reaching out to make sure our business had all the resources we needed to navigate the COVID-19 crisis. When this crisis hit, the Chamber made a concerted effort to proactively reach out to hundreds of businesses (members and non-members) to see how we are doing and discover how they can best serve our community."



Josh Van Orden, Director of Operations/ PR & Marketing, Oceanside Therapy Group

"The pandemic has severely impacted the tourism industry here in Oceanside. When we needed it most the chamber came through and advocated for us by supporting the reopening of public beaches and parking lots, thus bringing people back to Oceanside. While we had other state regulations which inhibited our ability to open, the Chamber provided monetary support and resources so when we could reopen and bring our visitors back to Oceanside we would still be in business. We value the efforts made by the Chamber and they continue to advocate for the business community, we are stronger together."



Donna Kalez, Owner, Oceanside Adventures

