To mark its 45th year, Orange, California-based architectural services firm AO (formerly Architects Orange) presented a check for $16,500 to Friendly Center, a nonprofit providing stability, opportunity and hope to children and families in poverty for the past 95 years. The architecture firm’s 300 employees rallied throughout to raise money to benefit the more than 1,000 families that the Friendly Center serves each year through a host of programs and services falling under three main pillars: family support, food support and education.

AO has partnered with the Friendly Center for the past six years. To date, the firm has collected more than 45,000 food items and raised more than $30,000 to assist the one in three households in Orange County that face hunger each day.

“Our firm was founded in Orange in 1974 on a relationship-focused approach, and we’ve stayed committed over the year to both our community and our belief that great things come from great relationships,” said Jeff Rabbitt, partner at AO. “We’re passionate about the Friendly Center’s mission and vision to end the cycle of generational poverty in Orange County and look forward to growing our relationship with this high-impact organization.”
AO's Multifamily Studio poses next to part of the 6,000 items AO collected for the inaugural 2014 Friendly Center Food Drive

AO's Andy Thomas sits on a throne made of items collected during the 2015 Friendly Center food drive

AO's Restaurant Studio celebrates collecting the most items for the firm's 2016 Friendly Center food drive

Members from AO's Retail Studio stand in front of their team's donations for AO's 2017 Friendly Center food drive

AO employees load trucks to deliver items collected during the 2018 Friendly Center food drive

AO's Jordan Glasser, Ioanna Magiati and Aran Ghiacy, Cathy Seelig of the Friendly Center and Jeff Rabbitt of AO

Photos courtesy of AO