



For **25** years

HOPE BUILDERS

has helped more than 6,000
 Orange County young adults
 move from poverty to prosperity.

For more information, visit
tsjhopebuilders.org



44

SINCE JULY 1, YOU'VE HELPED

YOUNG PEOPLE START CAREERS

YES, I would like to give a gift that moves a young person from poverty to prosperity.

- \$50 to help prepare a young person, like Jose, to enter the workforce
- \$_____ to help as many young people as I can.

GIVE ONLINE TODAY:

tsjhopebuilders.org/donate

Below are some of the young people who completed training and found employment at an average hourly wage of \$15.23

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Adrian P.	Mammoth Electric, Inc.	\$15.10
Andrew B.	Tuff Shed	\$16.00
Angel M.	Stone & Tile Specialists	\$16.37
Beatriz Q.	Lestonnac	\$15.00
Bryan B.	SACA Technologies	\$16.00
Calvin S.	24HRC	\$16.00
Christy T.	Meals on Wheels Orange County	\$17.00
Daisy A.	Prudential Overall Supply	\$16.00
Damian H.	Drawer Box Specialties	\$17.00
Daniel G.	Mammoth Electric, Inc.	\$15.10
Dominique M.	St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare	\$17.10
Eder V.	Performance Boost Center	\$18.00
Lizbeth V.	St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare	\$17.00
Marissa V.	Providence St. Joseph Health	\$16.07
Paulina H.	KCS Health Clinic	\$16.00

To see a list of donors who supported youth with the training and skills needed to find employment, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo

BUILDING HOPE

WINTER 2020



tsjhopebuilders.org



A message from
SHAWNA SMITH

I am overwhelmed by the generosity with which you responded to our 25th anniversary celebration and 25 Days for Building Hope campaign. During these uncertain times, it was a true and profound expression of hope.

Like you, Hope Builders is responding to the economic and societal challenges that surround us with equal urgency and focus. As we look forward, we are focused on achieving two important goals — moving more young people into career pathways and ensuring our long-term sustainability though social enterprise revenue generation. The pandemic has presented as many opportunities as it has challenges, helping us to build new virtual ways of delivering our transformative programs and services that are pushing our understanding of what is possible. The current realities of the local workforce helped us quickly recognize the growing need for Behavioral Health services. This fall, we are piloting a new career pathway for Behavioral Technicians in partnership with Santiago Canyon College.

We are more committed than ever to ensuring the next 25 years of Hope Builders are more impactful, transformative, and hopeful. Thank you for standing with us.

Shawna Smith

Shawna Smith

THE JOURNEY
 towards **HOPE**



Hope Builders' Journey includes four distinct stages. Within each, young adults commit to achieving a set of standards essential for advancing to the next stage. Below we look at the first step of the journey, **THE APPLICANT STAGE.**

Hope Builders' Outreach Team works with numerous community partners — such as Big Brother Big Sisters, Orangewood, Probation Department and Orange County Conservation Corps — to recruit 18- to 28-year-old young adults. The pandemic has not changed this work.

In lieu of in-person events, Hope Builders now holds information sessions via Zoom and Instagram Live and conducts virtual office hours where young adults, who may be clients at other community nonprofits or enrolled in continuation school, can call in to learn more.

Interested young adults submit an application, along with right-to-work documents. Hope Builders' Admissions team then begins to carefully evaluate each candidate to guarantee it enrolls those who demonstrate a strong commitment to entering the workforce.

First, it schedules applicants for a basic skills test to ensure that those, who need us the most, have the math and reading skills necessary to complete the program.

Next, staff interviews each candidate to try to discern their motivation for enrolling in the program. "The interview is revealing," says admissions specialist Ericka Rios Streitz. "Young moms want to show their kids that it's never too late to finish school and start a career; young men want more than the under-the-table work that they see their parents doing."

After the interview, staff sends those who are moving forward to a drug test. All applicants, who pass the drug test, are invited to an orientation, where applicants must show up every day, on time. This week-long event gives applicants a close-up look at the program, outlines curriculum and expectations and introduces prospective trainees to staff and successful graduates. This also serves as a final opportunity for staff to vet applicants for admission to the Trainee Stage.

This rigorous process can take up to several months, but the investment is worth it. At least 80% of those that Hope Builders enrolls will successfully complete their training program.

25 YEARS

BUILDING a PATHWAY
to PROSPERITY

801 N. Broadway
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 543-5105
tsjhopebuilders.org



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To volunteer, hire a graduate
or make a gift, please contact
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jose Baron is a very busy man. As a Superintendent of a job site in San Jose for Suffolk Construction, he works 12- to 16-hour days. The weekends don't give him much of a break, either. He spends them overseeing tenant improvements on his house or studying for his general contractor's license.

Jose's not complaining. Despite a desire to be closer to family in Orange County, his life couldn't be better. He is grateful for where he is today and especially thankful to Hope Builders, for putting him on his current path.

Jose entered our Construction Training Academy in 2006, when he was 19 years old. He was just out of jail and unable to find work. He had a baby boy to support and was getting desperate. A friend told him about Hope Builders.

Jose thought the program — especially the math — was hard; the last time he had seen the inside of a classroom was in 9th grade. Looking back, though, Jose knew even then that the program had a lot to offer. "When I got to Hope Builders," he says, "I saw stability and structure." Jose realized that this could be the permanent ticket out of his old gang life.

After Hope Builders, Jose entered the Carpenter's Union as a Level 2 Apprentice. He remembers thinking that at \$18/hour, he had hit the jackpot. So, he bought a brand new car. "Rookie mistake," Jose jokes, saying that his financial management is much more disciplined now.

After two years in the union, the recession hit and he lost his job. Jose used the opportunity to finally finish his GED. Only the second person in his extended family to finish high school, Jose opted to break another barrier and enroll in college.

Two years later, with an AA degree in Construction Management, Jose reentered the union and became a Journeyman. Over the next few years Jose worked for some big construction companies, including McCarthy Construction, Bomel and Klorman

before finally ending up at Suffolk Construction.

Today, Jose spends his days managing complex building projects. He doesn't forget how he got here, saying, "A lot of hard work, initiative, and the power of people believing in me" made all of the difference in his life. "I have Hope Builders to thank for that."

When I got to Hope Builders, I saw stability and structure.



25 DAYS FOR BUILDING HOPE

Hope Builders celebrated its 25th anniversary with **25 Days for Building Hope**, a digital campaign moderated by CBS Sports Broadcaster, Bill Macatee.

25 Days for Building Hope told the story of Hope Builders' past, present and future through 25 days of engaging video content. Culminating on Labor Day, it **raised over \$750,000** to help move Orange County young adults from poverty to prosperity.

Hope Builders appreciates the many generous sponsors, donors and volunteers, who throughout 25 years, have helped connect more than 6,000 Orange County young adults to career opportunities that transform their lives.

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For event highlights, please visit
25daysbuildinghope.org