Irving enters a classroom of eager young men and women who just graduated from Hope Builders’ 16-week construction training program. Not long ago, he sat in one of those seats, looking to build a better life. Today, he volunteers his time by sharing his story.

His message to them is simple. Everyone here—classmates, staff and Hope Builders’ supporters—wants to see you succeed. A bright future awaits you—but you will need to work hard and above all, never lose hope.

Irving grew up in Santa Ana with his mom and two older brothers. His family lived in the part of the neighborhood where looking at someone the wrong way got you into serious trouble.

In order to support the family, Irving’s mom worked two, sometimes three jobs.

“My mom always made sure we had food, clothes and school supplies—what any parent would want for their kids.”

Despite these needs being met, Irving still struggled. With his mom working around the clock, it was easy for him to get into trouble. When he was only 11, Irving had his first drink and smoked his first cigarette. Eventually, he experimented with other drugs.

Irving knew that his future looked bleak. Both of his brothers were in a gang and conflicted with other drugs.

He gained the right skills, Irving could land a quality job but instead, all he could find was dead-end ones working in fast food. At this rate, he would be stuck working multiple minimum wage jobs like his mom.

Irving found the change he needed when his friend introduced him to Hope Builders’ construction training program. Getting paid a weekly stipend while receiving job training drew Irving to the program.

He gained so much more than he expected.

The program taught him construction principles and life skills such as time management, leadership and teamwork. He discovered a newfound confidence during the program.

With his new job, Irving can take care of his family in a way he didn’t think was possible. He has relocated them to a better neighborhood and is now leading his family to the future they both of those seats, looking to build a better life. Today, he volunteers his time by sharing his story.

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“No matter what you do, hope is the best gift you can give someone—look what it did for me.”

Additionally, the below youth increased their wages by an average of $3.08 an hour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Previous Hourly Wage</th>
<th>Current Hourly Wage</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfonso</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>Hope Builders Construction Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>GB Carpentry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anzley</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>Share Our Selves (SOS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>$19.00</td>
<td>UCI Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cesar</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>Rocky Coast Builders Framing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>UC Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerardo</td>
<td>$19.00</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td>Tradesman Electric Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irving</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>Los Angeles Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>Santa Ana College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>health Care Partners Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td>$27.00</td>
<td>Orange County Reuse Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karina</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
<td>Health Care Partners Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karla</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$29.00</td>
<td>Health Care Services Inc/Hot Family Dermatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karla</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare</td>
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<td>Karla</td>
<td>$27.00</td>
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<td>Share Our Selves (SOS)</td>
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<td>Karla</td>
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<td>Karla</td>
<td>$29.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>Hope Builders Construction Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amigo scholarships support job training and case management for Hope Builders’ youth. To sponsor an Amigo, please call Sami Rothwell at (714) 543-5105, ext. 124. To see a list of these generous supporters, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo.
Dear Friends,

Hope Builders isn’t about a hand-out—it’s a hand-up. We invest in young people, who are ready to do the hard work needed to overcome daunting obstacles and build lives full of opportunity. In Orange County alone, 43,000 youth between the ages of 16–24 are unemployed and out of school. That’s nearly enough youth to fill Angel Stadium.

And we’re doing something about it. Hope Builders’ model of workforce training and life skills empowers disadvantaged young people to transform their lives and achieve enduring personal and professional success. Through partnerships with businesses and individuals like you, we are leveraging the untapped potential of disadvantaged youth—back to work, back to school, back to our community.

Your generosity is the fuel that drives our efforts. It strengthens and encourages our work. It makes transformation possible for hundreds of young people each year. Thank you!

Gratefully,

Shawna Smith
CEO/Executive Director

*TO JOIN THE BUILDERS BLOC, PLEASE CONTACT SAMI ROTHWELL AT (714) 543-5105, EXT. 124 OR SROTHWELL@TSJHOPEBUILDERS.ORG. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN-UP ONLINE AT TSJHOPEBUILDERS.ORG/DONATE.

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**LIGHT UP A LIFE**

Together we raised a record-breaking $750,000 in net proceeds at our Light Up A Life gala on September 17. We are enormously grateful to our sponsors, donors and Best of Friends Honor—SC Fuels and the Greinke Family. Thank you event chair Bridget Ford and the Light Up A Life Council for creating a magical evening.

**BUILDERS BLOC:**

Monthly Giving Program

Become a member of the Builders Bloc, Hope Builders’ Monthly Giving Program and empower a young person with the skills and support needed to transform their lives. Monthly donations help our trainees get things like bus passes and childcare vouchers so they can complete the program.

As a Builders Bloc member, you will receive:

- Quarterly updates regarding our program and youth
- Invitation to members-only events
- Recognition online and in print media
- Private tours upon request

To join the Builders Bloc, please contact Sami Rothwell at (714) 543-5105, ext. 124 or srothwell@tsjhopebuilders.org. You can also sign-up online at tsjhopebuilders.org/donate.

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**THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF HOPE BUILDERS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**

Hope Builders operates a general contracting company, Hope Builders Construction Company (HBCC), that strives to fast-track unemployed, but skilled youth, with significant barriers to employment, to a no-wage job by giving them an opportunity to refine their skill set through transitional employment alongside master tradesmen. HBCC is a $1.3 million business that currently employs 16 people, including 7 Hope Builders’ youth. According to Hope Builders’ partner, REDP—venture philanthropist that invests in social enterprise—individuals engaged with social enterprises show an increase in job retention, self-sufficiency and life stability.

Take Juan for example—a graduate and former HBCC employee.

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**GREETINGS**

from

**SHAWNA SMITH**

Visit tsjhopebuilders.org/events for pictures of the event.