TO MAKE A LIFE...
BUT SHE LEARNED TO MAKE A LIVING,
EDITH CAME HERE WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

"because they trust that we have vetted the candidate."
It's obvious that the training she received at Livia De Los Rios
Here's what they have to say about our youth:
V anessa is diligent in her work and is up to take on new challenges — her role has already expanded to include quality assurance testing and new client setup and support.
Hope Builders gave me a path to follow and continues to guide me on that path.

Below are some of the youth who completed training and found employment at an average hourly wage of $14.55.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Hourly Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alondra</td>
<td>St. Jude Heritage Medical Group</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amane</td>
<td>Fayer Gipson LLP</td>
<td>$12.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelica</td>
<td>Medical Specialities Managers</td>
<td>$13.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlene</td>
<td>Care Ambulance</td>
<td>$14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley</td>
<td>Bixlerland Home LLC</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrett</td>
<td>Southland HVAC and Construction</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briana</td>
<td>Prospect Medical Group</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste</td>
<td>UC Irvine Temporary Division</td>
<td>$18.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damien</td>
<td>Newport Orthopedic Institute</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deysha</td>
<td>Barnes Solar</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer</td>
<td>Dorton Systems</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus</td>
<td>Shave Our Selves (SOS)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justine</td>
<td>Deutsche Bank</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karina</td>
<td>MedData</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorena</td>
<td>Allied Medical Supply, Inc.</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mestersona</td>
<td>St. Joseph Health — Penal Management</td>
<td>$15.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>St. Jude Heritage Healthcare</td>
<td>$15.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole</td>
<td>St. Jude Medical Center</td>
<td>$15.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa</td>
<td>True Power Solar</td>
<td>$16.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa</td>
<td>Common Areas</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Listen to Edith’s story and learn how you can support other young people like her.

Visit tsjhopebuilders.org/testimonials for a complete list.

II BUILDING HOPE II
FALL 2017

BUILDING A STRONG IT WORKFORCE

Orange County is home to the fifth largest information technology (IT) sector in the US. This growing industry creates jobs with higher than average wages and resiliency during recessions. Both attributes are especially important in areas with high cost of living such as Orange County.

According to an Orange County Business Council report, “regions that focus on building a strong IT workforce enjoy a competitive advantage in today’s global economy.”

The California Employment Development Department expects that most Orange County IT occupations will experience significant growth by 2024 — particularly since IT has emerged as an integral part to almost every workplace. However, the disparity between degrees issued in IT and job openings in the region indicates a skills gap problem.

In response, Hope Builders, in partnership with Santa Ana College, launched an IT training program this fall that prepares the skilled labor needed to meet employers’ demands and keeps Orange County ahead of the game.

The IT program replicates the same, successful model of Hope Builders’ business applications program — youth are co-enrolled in Santa Ana College, which administers hard skills instruction. Hope Builders provides the soft skills needed to help students address issues that prevent them from entering and staying in the workforce. Youth who complete the program earn college credit that can be applied toward a post-secondary degree.

Dr. Linda Rose, President of Santa Ana College, believes the key to Hope Builders’ success is the attention it gives to preparing youth with the life skills they need to succeed. “The average community college student takes 6 years to complete a degree program. “This is because their life gets derailed along the way—they lose access to transportation, their childcare falls apart, they can’t afford books one semester—yet “community colleges lack the resources to help students address these life issues.”

When 22-year old Maxwell attended Santa Ana College, he struggled with those same life issues and ultimately dropped out. After learning Hope Builders could help him address challenges with finances and time management, he enrolled in the IT program, where he is finding success.

“Hope Builders helped me get my life together. They gave me a path to follow and continue to guide me on that path.”

Through this joint program, Maxwell will earn a Help Desk Certificate from Santa Ana College and wants to find a job building and maintaining network systems for businesses. Hope Builders will help place him into a job and will provide ongoing guidance so that he continues to advance.

As the demand for a skilled IT workforce increases, Hope Builders will continue to work closely with its education and employment partners to ensure young people can contribute to Orange County’s thriving economy.

As the demand for a skilled IT workforce increases, Hope Builders will continue to work closely with its education and employment partners to ensure young people can contribute to Orange County’s thriving economy.

WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

42% of employers hire from Hope Builders because they trust that we have vetted the candidate. Here’s what they have to say about our youth:

“Lorena has excellent customer service skills both on the phone and in person. It’s obvious that the training she received at Hope Builders prepared her for this job.” — Livia De Los Ríos President & CEO, Allied Medical Supply, Inc.

“Vanessa is diligent in her work and is up to take on new challenges — her role has already expanded to include quality assurance testing and new client setup and support.” — J. Casey Rue Founder & CEO, Common Areas

Visit tsjhopebuilders.org/testimonials for a complete list.

PARTNER WITH US

Hope Builders is looking for employers who need an Information Technology intern.

To get started, contact Meghan Medlin at (714) 543-5105, ext. 138 or mmedlin@tsjhopebuilders.org.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY is a GROWING INDUSTRY SECTOR

41,362 TOTAL IT EMPLOYEES IN OC IN 2016
5TH LARGEST IT SECTOR IN THE U.S.

SOURCE: 2017-18 Orange County Workforce Indicators Report
GREETINGS from

SHAWNA SMITH

CEO/Executive Director

I have shared with some of you that one of our trainees, a young man named Alonso, was recently killed in a gang shooting in Santa Ana. As I sat in the pew at his funeral, I could not pull my eyes away from the casket. Alonso, whom I had known and loved since he was a boy, had just turned 19. His birth was the year I began to serve the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Alonso was so full of life, and his loss has left an indelible mark on my heart.

The next day, I had a surprise visit from Fred, a 2003 program graduate. Fred was once a tough hooligan who had himself survived a nearly deadly gang shooting fifteen years ago. In hindsight I am certain that, guided by Providence, he showed up at my door step. “I’m doing great,” he told me. “I just got a new job and bought a truck. Oh yeah, and this weekend I’ll be volunteering with Hope Builders on the street outreach team; gotta get more young people in here.”

Fred, a 2003 program graduate. Fred survived a nearly deadly gang shooting. The very same year the Sisters of St. Joseph founded Hope Builders. For a moment I felt a troubling question: “Is this what it means to make a difference?”

For event photos, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/events.

LIGHT UP A LIFE RAISES $670,000 IN NET PROCEEDS

We are enormously grateful to our sponsors, donors and Best of Friends Honoree—Shawna Smith—CEO/Executive Director of Brookfield Residential. Thank you event chair Bridget Ford and the Light Up A Life Committee for creating a magical evening.

PREMIER

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

PLATINUM

 Guaranty

OCECCHIOVEY.COM

GOLD

The Palmer Family Foundation

Brookfield Residential

Turnip Rose

SILVER

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

Miller Environmental, Inc.

OC Fair & Event Center

Witherspoon

BRONZE


AMZ Healthcare

Ammerman Development

Brookfield Residential

Brockway Group

Brookwood Commerce

BROOKWOOD

BROOKWOOD International

BrightView Landscaping

Cortina, Inc.

The Coca-Cola Company

Criminals Justice, Inc.

Underwriter of Hope

UNDREWRITER OF HOPE


AMZ Healthcare

Ammerman Development

Brookfield Residential

Brockway Group

Brookwood Commerce

BROOKWOOD

BROOKWOOD International

BrightView Landscaping

Cortina, Inc.

The Coca-Cola Company

Criminals Justice, Inc.

For event photos, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/events.

Stephanie Sardina first learned about Hope Builders from her church, Santa Clara de Asis. She received a volunteer flyer in her weekly bulletin and immediately called to arrange for a tour. At the time, her two oldest children were away at college and she was looking for a place to get involved.

“Our pastor, Father Fred, invited a few youth from Hope Builders to speak at mass and I was very impressed with their drive and desire to work hard to change their lives,” Stephanie recalls. “I thought that my background in Human Resources would be a perfect fit for their mock interview program. Funny enough, two years later, I’ve never participated in a single mock interview. Instead, I come two days a week to tutor trainees in writing and grammar.”

Stephanie continues to be inspired by the youth’s desire to help themselves. “It’s much different than working in a soup kitchen. Although both are important, I enjoy knowing that I’m helping someone build their own skills so that they can get a job and build a better life,” she elaborates.

Thanks to Stephanie’s dedication and commitment, Celeste—a young woman in the first class she worked with—is now a medical assistant at UC Irvine Health, earning over $18 an hour. Celeste says that Stephanie and the staff at Hope Builders were the “first people who believed in me. They helped me to believe in myself.”

Stephanie made good on the promise she makes to each class during orientation—“I’m here to help you succeed!”

Stephanie encourages anyone who is interested in volunteering with Hope Builders to take a tour or get to know Hope Builders’ youth by attending a graduation ceremony.

Hope Builders is grateful to Stephanie for her generous gift of her time and talents.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

STEPHANIE SARDINA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Guest Speakers

Mock Interviewers

Tutors

Special Event Supporters

To learn more or become a volunteer, please contact Natalie Stack at (714) 543-1105, ext. 125 or nstack@tsjhopebuilders.org

CELEBRATING SISTER EILEEN’S 60 YEARS OF SISTERSHOOD

Recently, at a gathering celebrating my 60 years as a Catholic nun and as the founder of Taller San Jose Hope Builders, John Shea, one of the guests, asked me the meaning of the word “taller” (hablery). I learned it, told him, when I was studying Spanish in Mexico in 1990. The word “taller” seemed to be everywhere and so I had looked it up in my Spanish dictionary. It was “a shop, a place to get things fixed”. Whatever might be broken — my car, my watch, my radio, I could take it to a “taller” to be repaired.

Being a Sister of St. Joseph for 60 years, it was clear to me that our patron, St. Joseph, most likely worked in a “taller” because he was known as a carpenter. So, when I began to dream of having a place in Santa Ana where broken young people could put their lives back together, the word “taller” came quickly to my mind and heart.

Ultimately Taller San Jose has become a place to BUILD HOPE, and so as the program expanded into Anaheim, we are better known now as HOPE Builders—a boldly pronounced promise to whoever walks in the door.

We celebrated my 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph at the home of Kevin and Trudy Finn on Newport Bay. It began with a celebration of Mass at which Father Christopher Smith presided. Father Christopher had known enough gang members in the early 1990’s to deeply understand the critical needs of his neighborhood in Santa Ana. And so, it was he who stood at my right hand and gave me confidence as we began to put the program together 22 years ago.

It is no little thing to bring HOPE to those who’ve had little. This is not a task to take on alone. God knows that of all the great opportunities and challenges that He has set before me throughout my decades in religious life, the one that has brought me most learning and joy is Hope Builders.

I am filled with enormous gratitude to see how Hope Builders continues to thrive as a beacon of hope and ask God to bless every person who has had a hand in its growth and sustenance.

Thank you.