

# Hope Builders: Creating a Skilled and Reliable Workforce

Across the nation, the deficit of reliable, skilled and dependable job seekers is a growing concern.

Locally, this gap threatens to limit economic growth, job creation and business competitiveness. This disparity also threatens to leave behind the 43,000 Orange County youth who are both out-of-work and out-of-school.

Orange County-based Hope Builders partners with employers, educators and philanthropists to upskill the community's future workforce through programming that integrates skills training with intensive life skills and employment readiness preparation. "We have a responsibility to the community. Not only to those we build, but also to those in which our employees live. Brookfield wants all residents of Orange County to thrive," said Adrian Foley, President/COO, Brookfield Residential and Hope Builders' partner.



Foley believes in Hope Builders' ability to recruit, vet and train workers who will benefit their industry. Take, for example, Juan Tello, a 2012 Hope Builders' graduate.

When he was 14 years old, Tello was sentenced to seven years in jail for crimes related to his gang involvement. Released in 2011, Tello, determined to stay out of trouble, tried to find a job. His record and lack of experience made it impossible.

A friend introduced him to Hope Builders and Tello made a decision that changed his life trajectory. He enrolled in the construction training program and learned skills needed for employment in the building industry. He also learned critical professional behaviors, such as showing up every day, on time and with a good attitude.

With locations in Santa Ana and Anaheim, Hope Builders bridges the gap between employers, who need skilled, reliable workers, and young adults, who face many barriers to employment. In addition to construction, Hope Builders trains youth for careers in business administration, healthcare and information technology.

In 2013, Tello completed the construction training program and has been steadily employed for four years. He currently works at HBCC—Hope Builders' general contracting company. As a junior foreman, he earns \$37,440 annually with full benefits.

"Hope Builders helped me believe in myself when no one else did. Now that I'm a working man, I can provide a safe and honest home for my family. I owe Hope Builders everything I am today."

Over the next five years, Hope Builders is committed to expanding its proven model and laying the foundation for Orange County's future workforce to meet the demands of employers. By 2022, Hope Builders will recruit, vet and train 1,000 youth like Juan Tello to work in local businesses.

For more information, please visit [www.tsjhopebuilders.org](http://www.tsjhopebuilders.org) or contact [info@tsjhopebuilders.org](mailto:info@tsjhopebuilders.org).

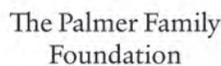
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For event information, please visit:  
[tsjhopebuilders.org/LightUpALife](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/LightUpALife)

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