

HOPE

for the

HOLIDAYS



With your help, Hope Builders connects young people to career opportunities that change their lives. Get involved today.

Get more details at
tsjhopebuilders.org



BUILDING HOPE

WINTER 2018



tsjhopebuilders.org

RESTORING HIS HOPE

Benjamin never thought he would be living the life he is today and you have made it possible.

Benjamin grew up on the violent streets of San Bernardino.

“I always knew I was book smart, but to survive in my world, you had to be street smart.”

With that mentality came the decision to deal drugs—he needed a way to support his two children. That plan soon landed him in jail. Most people would see this as the beginning of the end, but Benjamin saw it as a chance at a fresh start.

After his release, he moved to Orange County. At 24, he had neither the experience nor the skills to get the kind of job that would support his family. This is when he decided to check out Hope Builders—a place he kept

hearing about from his friends.

Your support gave Benjamin the jump start he needed to change his life.

Benjamin enrolled in the Business Applications program where he learned customer service, basic computer skills, and business math and writing. He also benefited from the life skills classes.

“I learned skills that I use every day in my life that keep me focused, productive, and motivated.”

In June 2018 MaxGen Energy Services hired Benjamin as an Accounts Receivable Clerk. He is earning \$41,611, with full health benefits. He continues to work with Hope Builders to help position himself for a potential promotion—he’s never been at a job long enough to ever be considered for one.

Because of your generosity, Benjamin has the tools to move his life in a positive direction.

I have gained so much hope from this experience. Hope to do better, hope to achieve better, and hope to remain better.

THANKS TO YOUR BELIEF IN BENJAMIN AND A GIFT OF \$35, HE PARTICIPATED IN EMPLOYMENT READINESS WORKSHOPS, WHICH HELPED HIM SECURE THE JOB HE HAS TODAY.



A message from SHAWNA SMITH

Dear Friends,

Hope Builders is a place where transformation occurs on a daily basis and where hope is always under construction. Just like Benjamin and Lorraine whose stories are featured in these pages, as an organization we are looking forward, staying focused on what’s most important, and ensuring our programs have lasting impact in the lives of the young people we serve.

Accompanying young people through significant personal change requires ingenuity, relationship, and persistence. It is a labor of love; and, it takes a community, each contributing their particular abilities, to unleash opportunity and ignite hope for young men and women ready for change.

As we enter this time of reflection and anticipation, I am immensely grateful to have your support and guidance. Your generosity is a blessing we work mightily to multiply. I wish you joy and peace today and into the new year.

With gratitude,

Shawna Smith

Shawna Smith
 Executive Director

IN THE LAST QUARTER, YOU HELPED **77** YOUTH find EMPLOYMENT

YES, I would like to give a gift that empowers young people to transform their lives.

\$35 to help prepare a young person to enter the workforce.

\$_____ to help as many young people as I can.

GIVE ONLINE TODAY:
tsjhopebuilders.org/donate

Below are some of the youth who completed training and found employment at an average hourly wage of \$15.15.

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Benjamin	Mammoth Electric, Inc.	\$16.00
Briana	Camino Health Center	\$15.44
Edgardo	Plumbing Concepts	\$15.00
Edmund	Residential Design Services	\$15.00
Eduardo	BSA	\$14.00
Esteban	Infinity Plumbing Designs, Inc.	\$14.00
Eva	St. Jude Heritage Medical Group	\$15.00
Francisco	Montgomery-Keith Co.	\$18.00
Jasmin	Share Our Selves (SOS)	\$15.50
Jose	Hilty’s Electrical Contracting, Inc.	\$17.00
Karina	Sleep and Wellness Centers of California	\$14.50
Lauren	Island Dermatology	\$14.00
Lucero	Obria Health Clinic	\$14.00
Maria	Medata	\$14.00
Stephanie	Western Exterminator	\$15.00
Terry	AAA - Automobile Club of Southern California	\$17.00
Yaridma	OC Neurology Clinic	\$15.00

To see a list of supporters who have helped these youth find employment, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo



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HOPE BUILDERS

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FROM UNCERTAIN to DETERMINED

Lorraine questioned what she was doing with her life and, thanks to you, she now has a clear path forward.

For much of her twenties, Lorraine juggled multiple retail jobs to support herself. Living on her own without a strong support system made it difficult to take the steps she needed to advance her career—like going back to school.

“I didn’t have any direction. I felt so lost and alone at times.”

Lorraine did not expect to find the answer she had been looking for during a routine check-up at a local health clinic.

Curious, she asked the attending medical assistant, “how did you get this job?”

“There’s a place called Hope Builders. They helped me get my foot in the door. You should check it out.”

Lorraine looked it up and found out she lived down the street from Hope Builders’ Anaheim location. She enrolled the next day and firmly believes it was one of the best decisions she has made in her life.

Your support has put Lorraine on the path to success.

THANKS TO YOUR BELIEF
IN LORRAINE AND A
GIFT OF \$50
SHE UTILIZED SUPPORT
SERVICES THAT HELPED
HER STAY ON TRACK AND
COMPLETE HER TRAINING.

Lorraine completed training as one of the top performers in her class. When things got tough, she utilized Hope Builders’ supportive services to help navigate through it.

“I struggled with anxiety but having someone supportive there to talk to really helped. I don’t think I would get that anywhere else.”

*From the first day
I walked through
Hope Builders' doors,
I felt supported.
I wouldn't be where
I am today without
that support.*

After completing a four-week internship, Lorraine accepted a position with St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group. She has been employed for over 8 months and is earning \$33,092, with full health benefits.

Thanks to you Lorraine has the confidence to keep succeeding.

“I am interested in becoming a pediatric nurse and I am looking into options that will help me get there.”



LIGHT UP A LIFE RAISES \$715,000 IN NET PROCEEDS

We are enormously grateful to our sponsors, donors, and Best of Friends Honoree—Woodbridge Glass/Werner Systems. Thank you event chair Bridget Ford and the Light Up A Life Committee for creating a magical evening.

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A message from our founder
Sister Eileen McNerney



I didn’t know much about poverty until we opened Hope Builders in 1995. Although I grew up frugally, my family life was stable.

INSTABILITY, I soon learned, was a key feature of the down-to-earth grit of real poverty. Instability meant there wasn’t money to pay rent, that employment wasn’t steady, and that you couldn’t go to the doctor when you were really sick.

Jose, one of the first young men to entrust his story to me, was 18 when first incarcerated. Jose’s family couldn’t pay their rent, so they moved quite often. By the time he was 15, Jose had gone to five different schools. Ultimately, he just dropped out ... and got in trouble.

Education wasn’t important to Jose or his family. They needed him to work. The rent had to be paid — and rent didn’t come cheap. That’s when he turned to Hope Builders.

What I saw in Jose were his incredible assets. He was young, healthy, and smarter than he knew. He needed SKILLS, CONFIDENCE and HOPE.

I was convinced that Hope Builders could, with God’s help, become experts at providing SKILLS, CONFIDENCE and HOPE. So, that’s what we’ve been doing for over 20 years. We can’t do this without your strong investment of HOPE.

Thanks to you, my friend Jose is now married and has a wife and kids. He’s never been back to jail. He’s earned the dignity of hard work and, though not rich, his family has stability.

**YOUR GIFT HAS THE POWER
TO TRANSFORM LIVES.
CONSIDER GIVING TODAY.**