

HOPE

for the

HOLIDAYS



With your help, Hope Builders prepares young people to enter the workforce and helps businesses fill jobs with the right talent.

Give HOPE by volunteering your time or making a donation.

Get more details at
tsjhopebuilders.org

EDITH CAME HERE TO MAKE A LIVING, BUT SHE LEARNED TO MAKE A LIFE...



Hope Builders taught Edith marketable skills that landed her a job as a medical assistant. Employed for more than one year, Edith now earns \$40,560 with full benefits.

Listen to Edith's story and learn how you can support other young people like her.
tsjhopebuilders.org/GIVE

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 Rios 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

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

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Alondra	St. Jude Heritage Medical Group	\$15.00
Amanda	Fayer Gipson LLP	\$22.11
Angelica	Medical Specialties Managers	\$13.00
Ariana	Care Ambulance	\$14.50
Ashley	Brentwood Home LLC	\$13.00
Benito	Southland HVAC and Construction	\$15.00
Briana	Prospect Medical Group	\$16.50
Celeste	UC Irvine Temporary Division	\$18.18
Denise	Newport Orthopedic Institute	\$16.50
Deyvis	Barnes Solar	\$15.00
Jennifer	Doortek Systems	\$15.00
Jesus	Share Our Selves (SOS)	\$15.50
Justine	Deutsche Bank	\$18.00
Karina	MedData	\$14.00
Lorena	Allied Medical Supply, Inc.	\$14.00
Marialorena	St. Joseph Health — Pain Management	\$15.09
Nancy	St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare	\$15.09
Nicole	St. Jude Medical Center	\$15.45
Urias	True Power Solar	\$16.67
Vanessa	Common Areas	\$15.00

FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER, WE'VE HELPED

65

YOUTH find EMPLOYMENT

BUILDING HOPE

FALL 2017



tsjhopebuilders.org

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.

Maxwell
Hope Builders Student



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

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.

Visit tsjhopebuilders.org/testimonials for a complete list.



GREETINGS

from

SHAWNA SMITH

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 year he was born — 1995. The very same year the Sisters of St. Joseph founded Hope Builders. For a moment I felt a troubling question bubble up inside me, “Are we really making a difference?”

The next day, I had a surprise visit from Fred, a 2003 program graduate. Fred was once a tough homie 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.”

Equipping young people with the skills they need to create real, enduring transformation in their lives does make a difference. Together we create opportunities for youth, like Fred, to build lives of hope and prosperity.

I’m so grateful for your help in doing it,

Shawna Smith
CEO/Executive Director

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

STEPHANIE SARDINA

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.

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.”



“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 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.

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

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



Sister Eileen

LEGACY SOCIETY



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” (tah-yair). I learned it, I 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 proclaimed 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 buried 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 shine as a beacon of hope and I ask God to bless every person who has had a hand in its growth and sustenance. Thank you.

TALLER SAN JOSE HOPE BUILDERS

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Santa Ana, CA 92701
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www.tsjhopebuilders.org



Stay up to date by following us at:
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To volunteer, please contact
Natalie Stack at (714) 543-5105, ext. 125

To hire a graduate, please contact
Meghan Medlin at (714) 543-5105, ext. 138

To make a gift, please contact
Sami Mouth at (714) 543-5105, ext. 124

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

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

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For event photos, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/events.

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Volunteers bring TALENT and valuable SUPPORT to help advance Hope Builders’ mission. Here are available volunteer opportunities:

MOCK INTERVIEWERS

GUEST SPEAKERS

TUTORS

SPECIAL EVENT SUPPORTERS

To learn more or become a volunteer, please contact Natalie Stack at (714) 543-5105, ext. 125 or nstack@tsjhopebuilders.org

CELEBRATING SISTER EILEEN’S 60 YEARS OF SISTERHOOD



Anne Cleeland, Sister Eileen, Regina Hunsaker



Mary Ann and Bob Bercaw, Paul Schloemer, Sister Eileen, Jamie and Richard Heim



Sister Eileen, Kevin and Trudy Finn

To see the plans for the stained glass window, being designed by Judson Studios, that will permanently recognize Sister Eileen and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, please visit tsjhopebuilders.org/legacy.