



## Hope Builders: A Win-Win for Job Seekers and Employers

For more than 20 years, Orange County-based Hope Builders has served as a powerful broker between young adults, who face many barriers to employment, and employers who seek skilled, reliable workers.

"I lacked the skills to get a decent job. I felt all the cards were stacked against me, but I needed to find work to support my family," says Jessica Ancira, a 2010 graduate of the agency's Business Applications program, which trains youth for administrative assistant and office support jobs.

Hope Builders serves as a free-of-charge placement agency, developing relationships with local businesses and providing employers direct access to motivated workers. The organization provides young adults with the appropriate technical job training and ongoing personal guidance that make them productive employees immediately and valuable assets for the long term.

Once she completed her training, Hope Builders linked Ms. Ancira to an administrative assistant job. Six years later, Ms. Ancira is with the same company and has increased her earnings by 188%.

"I never thought I would have the skills to make more than \$23 an hour, but Hope Builders coached me to become a valuable employee."

Ms. Ancira is one of more than 5,100 Orange County young adults who rose from despair to hope – by learning marketable skills – and then to pride as they earned good jobs from local businesses. Employers have praised their skills, work ethic and positive attitude. In a recent employer survey, 42% of respondents said they hired an individual primarily because the candidate was vetted by Hope Builders.

Hope Builders follows their graduates, for two years after they get a good job, to



make sure they have the ongoing support and knowledge they need.

### Hope Builders and Their Partners

Nationally, more than 6.7 million youth, between the ages of 16 and 24, are both unemployed and out of school. These youth suffer high rates of chronic poverty, exposure to violence, and diminished health and wellbeing, contributing to a future lifetime taxpayer burden of \$1.56 trillion.

In Orange County, more than 43,000 youth, ages 16 to 24, live in poverty. Despite an eagerness to work, these youth lack access to employment and education pathways. Meanwhile, businesses struggle to find entry-level workers with the right skills and personal attributes to meet their workforce demands.

Hope Builders bridges this gap and partners with local construction, healthcare and technology employers, who need energetic workers with the right skills, attitudes and behaviors for the workplace.

Hope Builders simulates the workplace, reinforces critical professional behaviors and provides:

- ▶ Hard skills training in construction, healthcare or business applications
- ▶ Life skills and counseling
- ▶ College credit and links to apprenticeships
- ▶ Employment placement and retention support

This year, Hope Builders opened a new site in Anaheim, where it will double the number of young people that it serves annually and increase its capacity to meet Orange County's workforce needs.

For more information, please contact us at [info@tsjhopebuilders.org](mailto:info@tsjhopebuilders.org).

Was I  
**WORTHLESS**  
or  
**WORTHY**  
Now I know.

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