



TALLER SAN JOSE – HOPE BUILDERS

Fact Sheet / Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Last Updated 11-12-2015

WHO WE ARE:

Taller San Jose was founded in **1995** in downtown Santa Ana by the Sisters of St. Joseph Orange as a direct response to increasing gang violence, high youth unemployment, low high school graduation rates and rising teen pregnancy rates in central Orange County.

Now known as Taller San Jose [Hope Builders](#), the organization is a nationally-recognized workforce development program that empowers disconnected young people who are in danger of not reaching their full potential through skill training in construction, business and medical careers and ongoing life skills development.

The Hope Builders program lasts **28 months** and includes **4 components**:

- Hard skills training in Construction, Healthcare or Business Applications
- Life skills and counseling
- Employment placement and retention support
- College credit and links to apprenticeships

In early **2016**, Hope Builders will expand beyond its 20-year **Santa Ana** headquarters with a second training center in **Anaheim** offering 10,000 square feet of additional space for onsite construction and medical vocational instruction, with plans to add another training track by 2018. Within three years, the organization plans to double its services to more than 700 local youth annually.

(more)

**WHO DO
WE SERVE?**

Hope Builders serves young adults ages 18-28 who are unskilled, unemployed and undereducated. Training candidates are interviewed to ensure compliance with basic right-to-work, drug, uniform and scheduling standards.

WHY THE NEED?

Currently, there are more than **55,000** impoverished young adults ages 18-28 in central Orange County who are out of school and out of work. High unemployment among this target population, coupled with low high school graduation rates, high rates of criminal recidivism and an incarceration system stretched beyond its capacity, will continue to exacerbate this situation for the foreseeable future. Major gaps in education and experience prevent impoverished youth from moving on to community college or to employment with a self-sustaining wage. Hope Builders believes that it has a unique opportunity to impact the ability of the community's "opportunity youth" to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

**PROGRAM
OUTCOMES**

- **5100 youth** have been served since 1995
- **300** Orange County youth currently are served annually
- **21%** of applicants are accepted into training
- **77%** of Hope Builders youth who complete their training find employment
- **72%** of Hope Builders youth retain their employment for at least 12 months
- **57%** of Hope Builders youth pursue a post-secondary degree or certificate
- **\$12.50** is the average wage of most Hope Builders youth within one year of training completion

(more)

DID YOU KNOW?

The workforce development programs offered by Hope Builders cost substantially less per individual than incarceration in state prison.

The cost of providing skills training, case management and ongoing educational and employment support at Hope Builders ranges from **\$15,000 to \$22,000** per person, depending on the program.

The cost of one year of incarceration is **\$62,500**. **61%** of those released from prison in California return within three years.

DISTINCTIVES:

Hope Builders is the most successful program of its kind in Orange County, providing low-income undereducated youth with workforce development and the on-the-job skillset necessary to empower individuals to positively transform their lives.

Founded in 1995, Taller San Jose Hope Builders is celebrating its 20th year serving the Orange County community – placing it among the longest-running programs of its kind in the United States.

FOLLOW US:

Follow Hope Builders on **Facebook** and **Twitter** at:
<https://www.facebook.com/tallersanjose> and <https://twitter.com/tallersanjose>.
Additional information is available at **LinkedIn** and **YouTube** at:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/1697681> and
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TallerSanJoseMedia>.

GET INVOLVED:

To volunteer with Hope Builders, make a donation or get involved by hiring a hope builder, visit <http://tsjhopebuilders.org/>

MEDIA CONTACT:

For information on any aspect of Hope Builders, or to arrange an interview with a Hope Builders Spokesperson, call **Christa Sheehan** at **(714) 543-5105, x112** or email csheehan@tsjhopebuilders.org

Additional multimedia content is available at: <http://tsjhopebuilders.org/press-and-media/press-kit/>

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