

# BUILDING HOPE



FALL 2020

[tsjhopebuilders.org](http://tsjhopebuilders.org)

a message from  
**SHAWNA SMITH**

It is impossible to escape the fact that we are living through a historical

moment. There's a heaviness to it that is hard to fully capture and yet it binds us to each other through a shared uncertainty. What has stood out, for me, despite all this is a sense of hopefulness and a clarity of purpose.

This fall marks Hope Builders' 25th Anniversary and its purpose is more important than ever. We know how to bridge the unemployment gap by building skills and productive behaviors that open-up access to stable careers. We understand the needs of vital essential industries – Construction, Healthcare, and Information Technology – and partner with employers to meet their needs. We overcome systemic barriers that impede a young person from reaching their full potential and future prosperity.

## We are Hope Builders.

While we have a lot to celebrate in our history, meeting the call of this historic moment means adapting. This adaptability is allowing Hope Builders to expand programming even as we reduce expenses. This summer we are relaunching our workforce training approach – creating a virtual classroom environment to deliver our technical instruction, case management and employment readiness remotely. We will continue to offer our hands-on training components in a more efficient, targeted, and safe way. We are blazing a new trail, building off best practices in blended learning, and innovating to make it more effective for our young adult population.

We've had some early learnings about what contributes to success in this new format and we expect to continue to adapt, refine, and learn some more. All of this has been possible because of the steadfast support of our donors, particularly as we've grappled with the current crisis. I ask for your continued generosity as we navigate these uncertain times. We can't do it without you. You are Hope Builders.



With great affection,

*Shawna Smith*  
Shawna Smith

## Hope Builders' Evolution to Ensure Continued Excellence

As the Orange County expert in moving disadvantaged young adults from poverty to prosperity, since 1995 Hope Builders has successfully connected more than 6,000 young adults to career pathways. Hope Builders accomplishes this through an effective combination of mentorship, life skills and job skills training that meets the needs of employers.

To ensure it thrives over the next 25 years, Hope Builders will continue to strengthen program performance so that it doubles the number of young adults who secure and retain a career. By 2023, Hope Builders also seeks to grow from 10% to 25% the revenue generated through its social enterprise.

In order to keep this vision viable, Hope Builders is adapting.

### Over the next year, Hope Builders is focusing on:

#### Transitioning to a blended learning approach

by integrating remote, live-online and on-site service delivery that ensures high-quality programming, responsiveness to changing delivery limitations, and drives greater efficiency.

#### Reimagining facility and technology utilization

to operate as a learning/resource center versus a place to house staff. Prioritize space to give young adults—impacted by the digital divide—a reliable access point to technology.

#### Aligning training verticals to grow fee-for-service strategy

with focus on healthcare, construction and information technology. In Fall 2020 Hope Builders will launch a behavioral technician training program.

Under the direction of its board of directors, Hope Builders will drive towards continued excellence and continue to serve as a beacon of hope for the next 25 years.



Hope Builders' Construction Training Academy in 1995 and today.

For monthly anniversary milestones and updates, visit

[tsjhopebuilders.org/25years](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/25years)

25  
YEARS

TALLER SAN JOSE  
**HOPE BUILDERS**  
BUILDING a PATHWAY  
to PROSPERITY

P.O. Box 685  
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(714) 543-5105  
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In honor of our 25th Anniversary Hope Builders is reconnecting with many of its talented alumni for updates on how the skills training and support they received at Hope Builders has empowered them to thrive.

When asked what brought her to Hope Builders over a decade ago, Abby thoughtfully paused, “I had a totally different mindset. I thought it was okay that I didn’t have my high school diploma. None of my friends did. I didn’t want to go back to school, but I never really put much thought into my future either. I came to Hope Builders because I didn’t know where else to go. Looking back, I was 21 and apathetic. My childhood consisted of poverty, a hard upbringing and misguidance. The role models I had available were not exemplary. The life I was living was what I was given and that was that.”

If you met Abby today, you would be surprised that this talented, driven and successful young lady ever lacked drive or direction. Over the

past decade since she graduated from Hope Builders, Abby’s determination has propelled her to accomplishments she never dreamed possible.

“Attending Hope Builders was the first time in my life I focused my energy on anything productive. It was the first time anyone told me I had options and helped me develop goals. It was the first time I imagined anything different for myself.” Abby discovered her passion for learning and excelled at Hope Builders. She did so well she was offered a position with the organization upon training completion.

“Hope Builders was the first place that encouraged me to think beyond my current situation,” Abby recalls. “I only enrolled in a high school diploma program so that I could enroll at Hope Builders.” Today, not only has Abby earned her high school diploma, but

she’s gone on to successfully attain both her Associate’s and Bachelor’s degrees. She is now pursuing her Master’s degree. As she says, “I’ve made it this far, why stop now!?”

Abby’s career has since flourished. After Hope Builders she joined the team at the Mission Hospital Foundation before finding her way to

St. Margaret’s Episcopal School. For the past five years, Abby has worked at St. Margaret’s as the Advancement Services Manager for their development team. “I absolutely love it. My boss trusts me and the quality of work I produce. It feels great to have their full support too.”

She’s earning more now than she ever dreamed possible. “I thought I’d be lucky to get a dollar or two over minimum wage. Now I have achieved financial independence earning enough to support my mom, myself, pay for my own education and still save for my future. I am forever grateful to Hope Builders for allowing me to realize my own potential, and to everyone whose support fuels their work.”



Abigail Castillo with Shawna Smith at the 2018 Light Up A Life gala

*“Hope Builders was the first place that encouraged me to think beyond my current situation”*

For more information  
on other alumni, please visit  
[tsjhopebuilders.org/25years](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/25years)



## Join Us for Our 25th Anniversary Fundraiser

This year, in place of our annual Light Up A Life gala, we invite you to celebrate our 25th Anniversary with us online! Over 25 days, you will have unique opportunities to support Hope Builders and the young adults we empower. Using email, social media, and videos, we'll share inspiring stories and update you on all that Hope Builders is doing today – and will continue to do tomorrow – to move disadvantaged young adults from poverty to prosperity. Keep an eye out for emails with more details coming your way soon!

### 25 Days for Building Hope

Friday, August 14 – Monday, September 7

For more information visit:  
[tsjhopebuilders.org/25days](https://tsjhopebuilders.org/25days)

## Many Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors as of July 22, 2020



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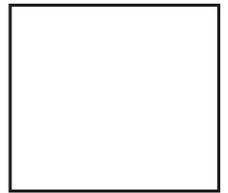
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## Join Us!

### 25 DAYS FOR BUILDING HOPE

Friday, August 14 – Monday, September 7



*For more information visit*

[tsjhopebuilders.org/25Days](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/25Days)



# 54

SINCE FEBRUARY, YOU HELPED  
 YOUNG PEOPLE FIND EMPLOYMENT

Below are some of the young people who completed training and found employment at an average hourly wage of \$15.22.

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Angelica M.	MemorialCare Medical Group	16.75
Arlin G.	UCI Medical Center	21.50
Brisa V.	A-Z Tech	18.00
Diana T.	Health Care Partners Clinic	16.00
Edith M.	Medata, Inc.	15.00
Francisco C.	C3 Tech	15.00
Grecia B.	Brite City	15.00
Kristof N.	AMPAM	16.00
Melissa M.	MemorialCare Medical Group	16.38
Miguel G.	Bazz Houston International	16.00
Mirian M.	Hoag Clinic	22.08
Ramiro V.	Mammoth Electric, Inc.	15.10
Saray P.	Pathways of California	15.00
Vincente L.	Tricon American	17.50
Zuleyma M.	St Joseph Heritage	17.73

**YES,** I would like to give a gift that moves a young person from poverty to prosperity.

- \$50** to help prepare a young person, like Abby, to enter the workforce
- \$\_\_\_\_\_** to help as many young people as I can.

**GIVE ONLINE TODAY:**  
[tsjhopebuilders.org/donate](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/donate)

To see a list of donors who supported young adults with the training and skills needed to find employment, visit

[tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo)