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.

For monthly anniversary milestones and updates, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/25years

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

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, 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.”

For more information on other alumni, please visit 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

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

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Join Us!

25 DAYS FOR BUILDING HOPE
Friday, August 14 – Monday, September 7

SINCE FEBRUARY, YOU HELPED
54 YOUNG PEOPLE FIND EMPLOYMENT

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.

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

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Employer</th>
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<td>Francisco C.</td>
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To see a list of donors who supported young adults with the training and skills needed to find employment, visit tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo

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