

# HOPE BUILDERS

801 N. Broadway  
Santa Ana, CA 92701



For **25** years

## HOPE BUILDERS

has helped more than 6,000  
Orange County young adults  
move from poverty to prosperity.

For more information, visit  
[tsjhopebuilders.org](http://tsjhopebuilders.org)



# 45

SINCE OCTOBER 1, YOU'VE HELPED  
YOUNG PEOPLE START CAREERS

**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 Victoria, to enter the workforce
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as many young people as I can.

GIVE ONLINE TODAY:

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

Below are some of the young people who completed training and found employment at an average hourly wage of \$16.73

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Adrian P.	Infinity Plumbing Designs, Inc	\$17.00
Aurora G.	Footprints Behavioral	\$21.00
Destiny R.	St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare	\$15.49
Diana H.	Hamilton Center	\$16.00
Elizabeth A.	uBREAKFIX	\$15.00
Elsa M.	Footprints Behavioral	\$21.00
Francisco Q.	PENN Corporate Relocation Services	\$15.00
Genaro M.	EVGA	\$15.00
Karla O.	Providence St. Joseph Health	\$15.00
Lisette M.	Jade Consultants	\$17.00
Lourdes M.	Jade Consultants	\$16.50
Marcos M.	Paper Mart	\$15.00
Maricela C.	Hamilton Center	\$15.25
Mauricio R.	Excel Residential Services	\$16.00
Mayra B.	Nyansa Learning	\$16.00
Michaela M.	Footprints Behavioral	\$21.00
Nayeli C.	Jade Consultants	\$17.00
Sharlene S.	St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare	\$15.97

To see a list of donors who supported youth with the training and skills needed to find employment, visit [tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo)

# BUILDING HOPE

SPRING 2021



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

## THE JOURNEY towards HOPE



In the last newsletter we introduced Hope Builders' Student Journey and profiled the first of a four-stage process—the Applicant Stage. Below we look at the second step of the Journey, **THE TRAINEE STAGE**.

Those applicants, who successfully complete the Applicant Stage, are invited to become trainees. The goal of this stage is to help young adults develop the skills and behaviors needed for success in the workforce. Trainees who demonstrate these qualities are deemed "workforce ready."

Trainees are admitted to one of four industry training verticals: *Construction, Information Technology, Clinical Medical Assisting or Behavioral Therapy*. Within each, trainees—over the course of 12 weeks to 12 months—develop the tools of their trade. Through partnerships with Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College, trainees can also receive college credit and these professional certifications: OSHA-10, First Aid and CPR, Applied Behavior Analysis Technician, and/or CompTIA IT Fundamentals.

Hope Builders pays trainees a \$75 weekly stipend and simulates the workforce, modeling the employer-employee relationship. Throughout 25 years, Hope Builders has learned that

while skill development is critical to helping young people transition to careers, mentoring and professional development is equally important.

This is why Hope Builders invests equally in helping its trainees refine the soft skills needed for workplace success. These include reinforcing the importance of showing up on time, with a good attitude and dressed professionally; having reliable transportation and childcare; and, remaining crime and drug free.

Trainees participate in Life Skills and Employment Readiness training where they develop and hone behaviors that employers have told us are critical to workplace success: accountability, initiative, productivity, grit and leadership.

Case Managers and instructors evaluate trainees weekly on both their hard skill and soft skill development. Only those, who demonstrate that they are proficient in both, are considered workforce ready and, thus, able to move to the next stage—Career Builder.



### A message from SHAWNA SMITH

When most people think of Hope Builders, they frequently think of how we help young people get a skill in construction or healthcare or information technology that will connect them to a good job. That of course is true.

What is equally true, and maybe even more important however, are the life skills we develop in our trainees. Skills like accountability, initiative, reliability, productivity, leadership and grit are really the behaviors that ensure our investment in young people propels them forward well beyond the weeks they spend in one of our training programs. These life skills are not something simply taught in a short lesson. They are modeled by staff, nurtured by mentors, and practiced with coaches. They are discussed every day, re-enforced with regular feedback, celebrated, and incentivized.

When Hope Builders places a young person in a job, we know they possess the characteristics needed to be successful on the job and in life. At a time when strength of character is more needed than ever, I have great hope in the young men and women of Hope Builders to meet that challenge.

*Shawna Smith*

Shawna Smith



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 Santa Ana, CA 92701  
 (714) 543-5105  
[tsjhopebuilders.org](http://tsjhopebuilders.org)



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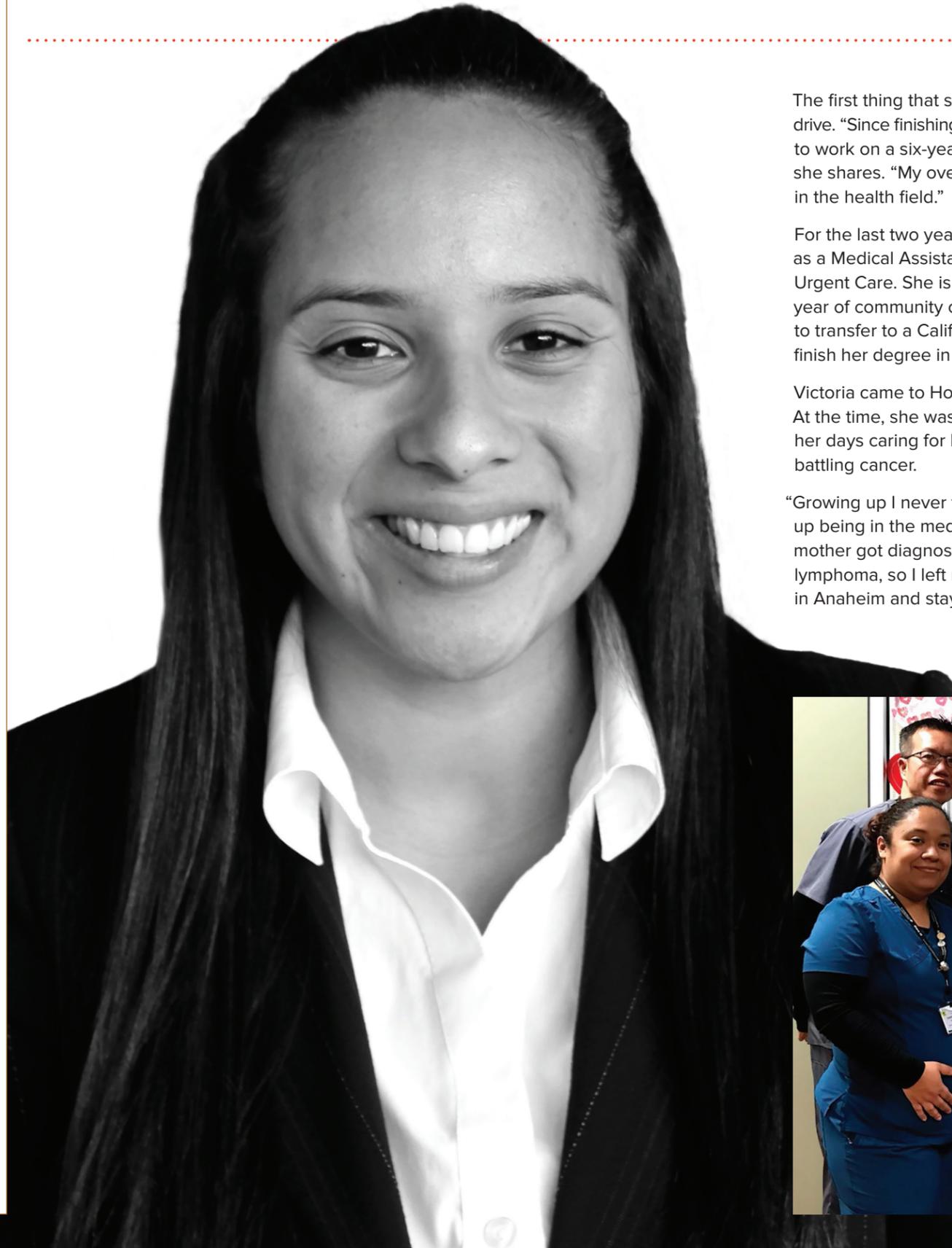
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



The first thing that stands out about Victoria Rosas is her drive. “Since finishing Hope Builders in 2018, I have continued to work on a six-year education and employment plan,” she shares. “My overall goal is to become a social worker in the health field.”

For the last two years Victoria has worked as a Medical Assistant at St. Joseph Health’s Urgent Care. She is also finishing up her last year of community college and then plans to transfer to a California State University to finish her degree in social work.

Victoria came to Hope Builders at 24. At the time, she was unemployed, spending her days caring for her mother, who was battling cancer.

“Growing up I never thought that I would end up being in the medical field. In 2016 my mother got diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, so I left my job as a server at a restaurant in Anaheim and stayed home to take care of her.”

During the long days accompanying her mother to chemotherapy, Victoria realized that she liked helping others and she thought the work of the people that she met at the hospital seemed like something she could do.

“I told myself that after my mom’s last session, I would look into doing a course in the medical field.” Friends told Victoria about Hope Builders.

Victoria thrived in training, but argues that the program also helped her in unexpected ways. “From building confidence to writing a great resume to learning how to nail an interview, Hope Builders provides skills that other places would not. They prepare us for the reality of what is out there.”

After training, Victoria completed her mandatory 160-hour practicum at St. Joseph Health and was immediately hired for a full-time position.

Hope Builders helped transform Victoria’s future. “I would like to thank all those who support Hope Builders for giving me an opportunity to change my life. Without them, I don’t know what I would be doing now.”

*Hope Builders  
 prepares us for  
 the reality of what  
 is out there.*

