

# 10 DAYS of BUILDING A PATHWAY to PROSPERITY

Hope Builders' fall fundraiser will be virtual this year.

**Save the Dates!**  
August 28 through Labor Day



**51**

SINCE FEBRUARY, 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 Pedro, to enter the workforce
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as many young people as I can.

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

Below are some of the young people who completed training and found employment at an average hourly wage of \$16.06

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Abigail S.	Bristol Family Medicine	\$16.00
Andrea R.	MemorialCare Medical Group	\$16.71
Celeste A.	St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group	\$16.88
Cindy J.	Serve the People	\$15.00
Cynthia C.	South Coast Pediatrics	\$16.00
Daniel J.	MemorialCare Medical Group	\$20.00
Gina S.	Providence Medical Foundation	\$16.02
Helen M.	MemorialCare Medical Group	\$20.00
Jennifer M.	Lestonnac Free Clinic	\$15.00
John N.	Knott's Berry Farm	\$15.36
Robert G.	Craig Realty Group	\$18.00
Ruben M.	Newport Coast Medical	\$15.00
Ruby D.	Morrow-Meadows Corp.	\$15.00
Ulysses C.	Infinity Plumbing Designs, Inc	\$18.00
Yesenia A.	Newport Coast Medical	\$15.00

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

# BUILDING HOPE

SUMMER 2021



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

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

As a single dad to his three-year-old daughter Pedro felt stuck in a low-wage job with no opportunities for growth. "I was unhappy. I wanted to give my little girl more, but I felt like a hamster running on a wheel," he recalls.

Growing up in Anaheim, Pedro attended three different high schools in his freshman year; his family struggled financially and frequently moved between apartments and motels. When 17-year old Pedro found out his girlfriend was pregnant, he decided to forget school all together. Instead, he started doing maintenance work to support her and his new baby.

This worked for a couple of years until last December, when work slowed down and Pedro's hours were cut. In addition to his daughter, Pedro now also cared for his nephew so money was extra tight. He knew that the three of them couldn't survive on unemployment and food stamps forever, so he decided to return to school. After earning his high school diploma, he followed a friend's advice and applied to Hope Builders, hoping to launch an actual career.

Pedro quickly began to thrive and enjoyed learning about the trades. His drive to build a better life helped him push forward despite the tiring days. Pedro woke up every day at 4:00 a.m. so he could read and prepare for the day ahead. He then helped his nephew and

daughter with their morning routines. After training he'd report to his job unloading containers in a warehouse to help his parents with the electricity bill and groceries.

Pedro recalls the moment his hours of training came to life; he and his classmates lifted a wall frame and secured it on the foundation in Hope Builders' warehouse. "I take huge pride in getting things done, adapting and finishing," Pedro shared, "it was inspiring to see it all come together."

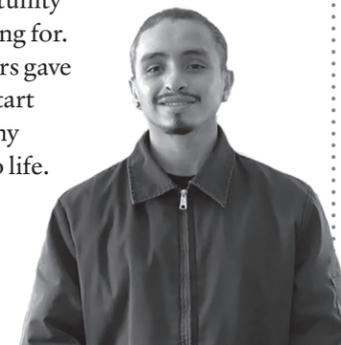
*Hope Builders gave me a jump-start to not only my career, but to life.*

Today, Pedro is working as a pre-apprentice with Pan-Pacific Mechanical. "I'm loving it," he exclaims. Disneyland contracted Pan-Pacific for a project and introduced them to Hope Builders as a solution to their workforce needs.

Pan-Pacific interviewed and selected Pedro for the opportunity because his knowledge and passion shined through.

Pedro sees the mentorship, life skills and job skills training he's received—and will continue to receive for his first six months of employment—as the opportunity he was looking for.

"Hope Builders gave me a jump-start to not only my career, but to life. I'm forever grateful!"



### A message from SHAWNA SMITH

A year ago, despite the challenges of the pandemic, Hope Builders launched its new Student Journey, a four stage process for moving young people from poverty to prosperity. We are sharing the last two stages of the Journey – Career Builder and Hope Builder – with you in this newsletter.

With input from young adults and employers, we took the hard earned expertise of our 25-year history and built-out a vision to carry Hope Builders into its next 25 years. The driving force behind that vision are three important goals — 1) Maximize outcomes for young people, 2) Fuel Hope Builders through entrepreneurial activity, and 3) Provide a talent pipeline to employers by serving more young people. While we could have backed off our ambitious goals, instead, we doubled-down believing that Hope Builders would be a valuable solution to the workforce challenges the county would face in the recovery.

Every day Hope Builders is connecting young people to the workforce, many for the first time, in career jobs as medical assistants, behavioral technicians, and as IT and construction professionals. We are transforming lives and helping Orange County to build back stronger. Your support makes this possible.

*Shawna Smith*  
Shawna Smith



801 N. Broadway  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
(714) 543-5105  
tsjhopebuilders.org



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# THE JOURNEY *towards* HOPE



**APPLICANT**  
SEVERAL DAYS TO MONTHS



**TRAINEE**  
12 WEEKS TO 12 MONTHS



**CAREER BUILDER**  
SEVERAL DAYS TO 6 MONTHS



**HOPE BUILDER**  
6 MONTHS

Our last two newsletters profiled the Applicant and Trainee Stages, the first two steps of Hope Builders' Student Journey. Now, we take a look at the final two steps of the Journey — the **CAREER BUILDER** and **HOPE BUILDER STAGES**.

The **CAREER BUILDER STAGE** includes young adults, who have completed their skills training, demonstrated that they are reliable and responsible and are now ready to start a career. Hope Builders conducts all activities in this stage through its social enterprise, Hope Builders Career Connections, HBCC.

HBCC recruits employers and secures job orders. Then, it matches new "Career Builders" to open positions. Through both temp-to-perm and direct placement options, HBCC generates revenue for the agency's nonprofit services. This year, HBCC has generated more than \$350,000 in revenue; by 2023, it will grow to \$1 million.

After a young adult secures employment, they enter the **HOPE BUILDER STAGE**. Throughout this stage, HBCC follows up monthly to ensure young adults continue to demonstrate accountability, initiative, productivity, grit and leadership. If instability arises, case managers provide support. After six months, these young adults join a community of other successful Hope Builders, who have retained a quality job — the kind that pays a living-wage and offers opportunities for advancement.

## GERARDO: A HOPE BUILDERS SUCCESS STORY



In June 2020, Gerardo applies to Hope Builders. Unemployed since January, he struggles to pay his \$600 per month rent and support his daughter.

Gerardo enrolls in Hope Builders IT program, which starts in August. He meets with his case manager and sets goals around time management and budgeting to help him become more reliable and to better manage his finances.

Gerardo successfully completes training in early January. HBCC connects him with a temp-to-perm position with South Coast Computers. After three months of stellar performance, Gerardo converts to a permanent position, earning \$66,000 annually with full benefits.

Every month Gerardo connects with the team at HBCC. So far, things are going great, but Gerardo knows that if he ever faces obstacles, he can connect with Hope Builders for support. The team at South Coast Computers looks forward to continuing to work with HBCC to fill their open positions.