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# 32

SINCE AUGUST, 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 young people, like Seth, to enter the workforce
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as many young people as I can.

**GIVE ONLINE TODAY:**  
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Below are some of the young people who completed training and found employment at an average hourly wage of \$18.53.

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Alan H.	Nevell Group Inc.	\$19.50
Angel R.	24HRC	\$17.00
Cynthia C.	Providence	\$21.41
Cody L.	Buffalo Maintenance	\$17.00
Deshawn P.	Cannon Building	\$20.00
Eduardo L.	KHS&S	\$19.50
Eduardo M.	Infinity Drywall Contracting, Inc.	\$19.50
Elijah P.	KHS&S	\$19.50
Elizabeth M.	MemorialCare Medical Group	\$20.00
Helen M.	Providence	\$20.85
Ismael R.	Pan Pacific	\$18.50
Jessica M.	Providence	\$21.63
Jesus O.	24HRC	\$17.00
Jorge Q.	BrightView	\$18.00
Ruth G.	Sunwest Electric	\$17.00

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)



## AMIGO SPOTLIGHT: UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Donors who contribute gifts to Hope Builders' Amigo Scholarship Program directly provide our young adults with the mentorship, life skills and job skills training needed to launch their careers.

Hope Builders is grateful to Paul and Renita Wojtuszewski, Hope Builders' Amigos, for their investment to help young adults build a pathway to prosperity.



Scan the QR code for more information about the Amigo Scholarship program.

**Q:** How did you, Paul, hear about Hope Builders?

**A:** Over 10 years ago I served on a jury for a local gang trial in Santa Ana. This experience deeply impacted me and I realized that the defendant, who was 15 years old at the time he was accused, never really had a chance at a better life considering the poverty, crime and lack of resources that plagued his community.

A few years later, a representative from Hope Builders spoke at my church about its programs and the impact they were making in the lives of disconnected young adults in Orange County.

I saw that Hope Builders offered a path for a better future for young adults like the young man I saw on trial. I tucked their flier away knowing that I wanted to get more involved when I wasn't so entrenched with work.

**Q:** What inspired you and Renita to make your first gift to Hope Builders?

**A:** Growing up in upstate New York, my family attended mass every week.

Although I may have spent more time reading the bulletin than the bible, it instilled in me important values that have shaped my life such as giving more and helping others. These are principles that my wife, Renita, and three children continue to live by.

After retiring in 2019, I knew I wanted to give back in a meaningful way. I've always been guided by my faith, and after contemplating questions raised in a series of sermons, along with some inspiration and revelation, it became clear to me that my mission needed to be to help people who never got a decent first chance in life. Thus, we established The Wojtuszewski Foundation and Hope Builders was our first recipient.

I really believe in how Hope Builders is addressing this problem — educating people and developing untapped resources. I love how it aligns the stakeholders of businesses, community and people/students. The cost of education may be high, but the cost of not getting an education is far greater.

**Q:** What are your future hopes for Hope Builders?

**A:** I've had the opportunity to volunteer in Virtual Mock Interviews to help Hope Builders' young adults practice their interviewing skills and build confidence in their job search. I'm excited to continue to deepen my involvement with the organization and encourage others to do the same.



To read more about The Wojtuszewski Foundation and other supporters visit [tsjhopebuilders.org/blog](https://tsjhopebuilders.org/blog)



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Our heartfelt thanks to all of our sponsors, whose support exceeded all expectations for our 2022 virtual fundraising event, **10 DAYS FOR LAUNCHING CAREERS**. To rewatch the 100+ first day at work stories shared, visit [tsjhopebuilders.org/2022-fundraiser](http://tsjhopebuilders.org/2022-fundraiser).

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**SETH:**  
A HOPE  
BUILDERS  
SUCCESS  
STORY



A message from  
**SHAWNA  
SMITH**



**APPLICANT SEVERAL DAYS TO MONTHS**

Seth felt lost and stuck in a job at his local gas station. As a former foster youth, he lacked the mentors needed to help him navigate towards his future goals of becoming a RN. He successfully stabilized his life when he was able to secure housing for recently-emancipated foster youth. To keep his rental, he needed to either attend school or work full time. He quickly felt overwhelmed. The foster care agency referred him to Hope Builders. Eager to fulfill his dream, Seth jumped at the chance to enroll.



**TRAINEE 12 WEEKS TO 12 MONTHS**

At 23, Seth thrived in the Clinical Medical Assisting program. He learned how to measure patient vitals, give injections, and perform basic charting. "My experience at Hope Builders was truly amazing," Seth shares. "I was given so much support. My support specialist helped me persevere when I felt like giving up and my career readiness instructor helped me put forward my best work and grow in my confidence."



**CAREER BUILDER SEVERAL DAYS TO 6 MONTHS**

Seth successfully completed training and launched his healthcare career! Today, he works as a Phlebotomist at Providence earning \$19 per hour. Looking ahead Seth remarks, "Hope Builders helped me realize my dream of working in the healthcare field. I'm well on my way to becoming an RN and know that Providence will help support me in realizing this goal with tuition reimbursement when the time comes. Thank you!"



**HOPE BUILDER 6 MONTHS**

Seth recently shared his first day of work story. Scan the QR code to hear about how Hope Builders helped him launch his career and ensure a bright future.



Michael, one of our trainees recently asked me a striking question. He asked, "Why would someone who doesn't know me donate money so I can come to Hope Builders?"

My response, "Because they believe you deserve the opportunity to discover what you are capable of and want to help you unlock your potential." He was visibly moved by the answer as were the handful of other trainees in ear shot of our conversation.

The journey to Hope Builders' doors is typically one with many false starts, failures, and missteps. Your gift to Hope Builders not only provides the uniforms and instructional materials needed to operate our programs, it also provides encouragement, inspiration, and courage to young people looking for a reason to try again and to persevere.

Before I turned to walk away, Michael said one more thing, "Make sure you tell them that I won't let them down."

*Shawna Smith*  
Shawna Smith