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at Hope Builders.



# GROWTH UPDATE: HOPE BUILDERS' PIPELINE FLOURISHES

Hope Builders continues to pursue its goal of doubling the number of Orange County young adults it connects to careers. And, this year it is on track to meet its annual goals:

**IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS:**

**BY JUNE, WE EXPECT TO:**



**OVER 600**  
individuals applied to Hope Builders  
Compared to a total of 700 in the previous 12 months



Receive more than  
**1,200 APPLICATIONS**



**127 YOUNG ADULTS**  
successfully enrolled in training  
YTD Goal: 121



Enroll over  
**320 NEW TRAINEES**  
Up from 188 the year prior

This admissions surge reflects the following significant investments Hope Builders has made in its outreach efforts:

**1. TEAM EXPANSION**

Two new staff members joined Dominique Misher, Outreach Manager, and her team. "We want to ensure each applicant is contacted within an hour of submitting an interest form online," Misher shares. "It can take anywhere from 5–12 conversations with an applicant, before they are ready to submit a full application. A lot of doors have been shut on them; they need to trust that we are the right place to help them launch their careers."

**2. INCREASED SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING**

The team recognized a need to grow its online social media presence to meet a broader audience. Since launching targeted video ads, website visitors have more than doubled and video views have increased more than 40% with multiple reels reaching over 20k views.

Hope Builders remains committed to growing its pipeline of work-ready candidates that meet the need of employers. Thank you, your support makes this work possible!

For more information on our performance to date in all key program areas, visit

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

**30**  
SINCE NOVEMBER, 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 Michelle, 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 \$19.96.

Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Adriana C.	ABA Enhancement	\$21.00
Alex R.	ABA Enhancement	\$20.00
Amy C.	Santa Ana Unified School District	\$21.00
Berenice F.	ABA Enhancement	\$21.00
Brando D.	Z3 Plumbing	\$19.00
Brandon P.	Cannon Building	\$21.00
Carlos M.	Cannon Building	\$21.00
Daisy D.	Concentra Health	\$20.50
Irvin V.	Impact Housing	\$20.00
Jacqueline B.	California Elementary School	\$20.00
Lizbeth C.	ABA Enhancement	\$20.00
Maria F.	Parkview Elementary School	\$19.00
Marilyn C.	Unlimited Possibilities Co.	\$20.00
Michael R.	Impact Housing	\$21.00
Stephanie M.	ABA Enhancement	\$22.00

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)



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To volunteer, hire a graduate or make a gift, please contact  
[info@tsjhopebuilders.org](mailto:info@tsjhopebuilders.org)  
 or call (714) 543-5105

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# THE JOURNEY TOWARDS HOPE



**APPLICANT**  
 SEVERAL DAYS TO MONTHS

#### GOAL

Vet and screen each applicant for readiness and invite to orientation.



**TRAINEE**  
 12 WEEKS TO 12 MONTHS

#### GOAL

Mentorship and skills training in healthcare and construction to ensure young adults are prepared to enter the workforce.



**CAREER BUILDER**  
 SEVERAL DAYS TO 6 MONTHS

#### GOAL

Secure a job within a career pathway.



**HOPE BUILDER**  
 6 MONTHS

#### GOAL

6 months of follow-up services to both the employer and candidate to ensure job retention.

## TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: MICHELLE G.



### A message from SHAWNA SMITH

There are many thousands of young people in our region who are seeking opportunity but who meet seemingly insurmountable roadblocks in realizing them. This is what Hope Builders is best at — unlocking the inherent strengths inside young people through mentoring and skill building programs that connect them to life-changing opportunity.

We are incredibly fortunate to live in a region that's innovative, diverse and economically resilient. I was recently at a convening on the future of workforce that explored new jobs in AI, human-centered design and the environment. Two things stood out to me. The first was the crucial ability to foster a growth mindset and adapt. The second was that non-traditional talent sources like Hope Builders are an underleveraged asset. They represent a solution to the issues we face meeting workforce gaps today and into the future. They lift people out of poverty and support healthier neighborhoods without having to wait for long-term systems change.

Hope Builders' unique position in the landscape has encouraged us to invest more in our outreach efforts for young people who need our support to start a career. And we're seeing results. By June we expect to serve 130 more young people than the previous year. We expanded the Medical Assisting program and increased class sizes for Construction and Child Development to meet the increased demand. More importantly we are seeing young people, like Michelle, who are contributing to a brighter future for all of us.

With hope for the future,

*Shawna Smith*  
 Shawna Smith

After hearing about the program from a family member, Michelle and her twin sister, Angelina, applied to Hope Builders in June 2023. Unsure how to launch her healthcare career, Michelle was drawn to the opportunity to gain new skills in a hands-on environment while continuing her education.

Despite her initial enthusiasm Michelle lacked confidence and withdrew her application, while her sister chose to enroll as a trainee.

Witnessing the positive impact on Angelina's life and recognizing the transformative power of Hope Builders, Michelle decided to give it another try.

Attending an informational session was a turning point for Michelle; she met the staff, learned about the program stages, and met current Hope Builders' trainees, who willingly talked about their experiences.

"Throughout the application process, the Hope Builders' team really helped me and made it easy to apply. They were always happy to help, keeping in touch and following up to see how I was doing," Michelle shares. This unwavering support became a crucial factor in solidifying her commitment to the program.

Before she even started training, Michelle actively engaged in opportunities offered

by Hope Builders, including driving lessons and pre-training tutoring to enhance her math skills. This helped her feel more confident and prepared for the requirements of the Clinical Medical Assisting Program.

Now, nearly halfway through training, Michelle remains optimistic about her future in healthcare. "Hope Builders has made me want to succeed. A career as a medical assistant is my first step towards my dream of becoming a nurse" she affirms.

Thanks to the support, mentorship and tools supporters like you provide, Michelle is embracing a new life path.

Follow Hope Builders' trainees and graduates along the Student Journey here: [tsjhopebuilders.org/blog](https://tsjhopebuilders.org/blog)