

# LENNAR FOUNDATION:

GENEROUSLY INVESTS \$700,000 IN SEED FUNDING TO GROW OC'S FUTURE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE



JEFF ROOS | Lennar Foundation

A longtime supporter of Hope Builders, Lennar has a specific interest in preparing disconnected youth for careers in construction and healthcare.

Upon his retirement as Regional President, Jeff Roos took on a leadership role within the Lennar Foundation to expand its investments that improve the quality of life within the communities that Lennar builds in.

"The Lennar Foundation is particularly interested in investing in housing and workforce development. We've made investments in Florida and on the east coast, but when I assumed this role we had virtually no penetration in the west," Roos recalls. To better understand workforce development agencies in Orange County, Roos reached out to Shawna Smith, Hope Builders' executive director, and a dozen others to learn more.

"Hope Builders is effectively recruiting out of work and out of school trainees and providing in-depth job skills and life skills training to ensure they are truly prepared for the workforce," said Jeff Roos, Lennar Foundation. "We are pleased to invest in the development

and growth of Hope Builders' medical assisting and child development training programs."

Roos encourages any others interested in investing in Hope Builders to reach out to Shawna Smith for a tour. "It's incredible to see your dollars at work."

"Typically, the workforce development programs I've encountered offer cohorts of 8 to 12 individuals three or four times a year. Our investment is empowering Hope Builders to prepare more than 200 youth for healthcare careers by June 2025"

Hope Builders is incredibly grateful to the Lennar Foundation for their gift to help Hope Builders build a pipeline of skilled talent for the local healthcare industry.



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## HOPE BUILDERS

801 N. Broadway  
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### A NOTE FROM SHAWNA SMITH, CEO



There is a palpable energy around Hope Builders these days. Our three training centers are full of young people building the skills they need to launch a career. Demand for our programs has never been stronger than in the past year.

We stretched to capture more of that demand; and we doubled the number of young people who successfully completed training filling every open seat in our classrooms. We invested in our outreach

and programming teams which really stepped up to the challenges of serving twice as many young people.

As we grow we hold on to the tradition of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, who taught us to never be complacent in finding new ways to help move young people out of poverty. Poverty is crushing and it will take all our ingenuity to fight it.

Looking forward, we are focused on enhancing our

operations and strengthening our financial position to ensure Hope Builders remains a vibrant pathway to prosperity for young people and their future employers.

In gratitude,

Shawna Smith

## SINCE FEBRUARY, YOU'VE HELPED 57 YOUNG PEOPLE START CAREERS

To see a list of donors who supported the mentorship, hard skills and life skills training of some of the young people listed here, visit [tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo](https://tsjhopebuilders.org/amigo)



Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Aide S.	UCI Medical Center	\$22.35
Alexander C.	Washington Iron Works, Inc.	\$20.80
Anthony C.	MemorialCare Medical Group	\$20.75
Carlos M.	Capsule Manufacturing Inc.	\$19.00
Evelyn C.	ABA Enhancement	\$21.00
Henry B.	Capsule Manufacturing Inc.	\$19.00
Jaqueline G.	Concentra	\$21.00
Jerry L.	Washington Iron Works, Inc.	\$20.80
Karla O.	Capsule Manufacturing Inc.	\$19.00
Kimberly R.	Providence	\$23.00
Malynda H.	KDC Construction	\$22.00
MaryJane P.	UCI Medical Center	\$22.35
Melissa C.	Urological Medical Group of North Orange County	\$19.00
Paola M.	Providence	\$23.00
Samantha Z.	Providence	\$23.00

## KIMBERLY: A HOPE BUILDERS SUCCESS STORY

### APPLICANT STAGE

Growing up in Santa Ana, Kimberly describes her youth as “pretty hectic.” She knew she needed more education, but didn’t know where to turn. “Other programs cost \$25,000 to become a medical assistant. I couldn’t afford that,” Kimberly shares. She felt stuck working multiple jobs at Wendy’s and Vons while also helping her single mother clean houses. When she heard about Hope Builders from her cousin, Kimberly “jumped at the chance for a free education.”

### TRAINEE STAGE

At 19, Kimberly enrolled in Hope Builders’ medical assistant training program to help make a difference in the world. She excelled in the hands-on learning environment, recalling, “My favorite part of the day was practicing vitals before each class.” She credits her peers and supportive staff with helping her stay motivated to keep up with homework and study, all while working 30 hours each week to help support her family.

### CAREER BUILDER STAGE

After completing her training successfully, Kimberly received support from Hope Builders Career Connections (HBCC)—the organization’s social enterprise staffing agency—and applied to every opportunity presented to her. Her drive, skills and passion to help others was evident and she was quickly selected for a Medical Assisting position with Providence earning \$23 per hour.



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VITALS BEFORE  
EACH CLASS.  
”

### HOPE BUILDER STAGE

Kimberly, along with her employer, regularly receive support from HBCC to ensure her continued success on the job during her first six months of employment. “I’m focused on my future. I know if I work really hard I’ll get to where I want to be. Thank you for helping me achieve my dreams!”



Learn more by visiting  
our blog  
[tsjhopebuilders.org/blog](https://tsjhopebuilders.org/blog)



## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT HOAG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRESBYTERIAN

You may have heard us use the phrase, “Once a Hope Builder, Always a Hope Builder.” For our graduates, one of the things this means is that as alumni they can return to Hope Builders for ongoing career advancement support. Hope Builders Career Connections (HBCC), our social enterprise staffing agency, connects graduates who have been in the labor market for over 12 months to positions seeking experienced employees. Recently, HBCC placed Jacquelyn H. in a medical assisting position at Hoag Hospital.

A single mom of four and the first person in her family to continue her education beyond high school, after graduating from Hope Builders, Jacquelyn secured a job with Share Our Selves, a local community clinic. For 15 months, she showed up on time, cared for patients and continued to grow her skills. She earned \$16.25 per hour, almost \$34,000 annually.

Throughout their time working with Jacquelyn, who is bilingual in Spanish, one of her supervisors described her as “a hard worker, who takes initiative for solving problems.” Although her life was significantly more stable than when she enrolled in Hope Builders, Jacquelyn was eager to earn more. She worked with HBCC to identify a new opportunity. In mid-April Jacquelyn started a new position as a medical assistant at Hoag Hospital, earning \$27 per hour, more than \$56,000 annually.

“Thank you. Because of Hope Builders, I never gave up, was patient and worked hard because I knew one day I’d be able to achieve a dream I once thought was impossible,” Jacquelyn shared.



Learn how you too  
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Give a gift that moves a  
young person, like Kimberly,  
from poverty to prosperity.

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