

HOPE BUILDERS

801 N. Broadway
Santa Ana, CA 92701



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AUG. 21, 2025

VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN

AUG. 23–SEPT. 1, 2025

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PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY.

tsjhopebuilders.org

HOPE
BUILDERS

A NOTE FROM SHAWNA SMITH, CEO



Over thirty years, we've navigated through many changes. Whether it was starting a construction program or expanding into another location in Anaheim, we've evolved, taken risks, learned from our mistakes, and never lost sight of the power of hope and a good job to change a young life for the better.

Fortunately, we've been surrounded by friends

who've offered us their support, expertise and advice. Your friendship allowed us to develop into an innovative and impactful organization that is now an important part of the fabric of Orange County.

Beyond financial giving, you have provided credibility, opened doors, lifted us up, and propelled our mission forward.

Whether you are a new partner or have been working with us for the past 30 years, thank you for walking with us as we empower young lives to unlock their potential and build a pathway to prosperity.

In gratitude,

Shawna Smith

Shawna Smith

FROM INSPIRATIONAL VISION TO A LEGACY OF GIVING

Hope Builders' first donor family continues to advance mission today.

In the spring of 1994, Eleanor Brewer attended a meeting convened at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. At the time, she was in leadership with the St. Joseph Health System and familiar with the Sisters' mission of "serving the dear neighbor." That mission was brought to life as Eleanor heard Sister Eileen McNerney share her experience of moving into a neighborhood of Santa Ana plagued by violence. She was struck by what Sister Eileen said the young people she met needed most — jobs.

At first, Eleanor saw only a mountain of barriers — so many of the youth who needed access to good jobs had been in jail, already had families, or lacked a high school education. How do you even begin to help someone find a job in that situation? But Sister Eileen had a plan, a vision for the organization that would grow to become Hope Builders. On May 11, 1994, Eleanor gave the first donation. She believed in the vision and wanted it to succeed.

Today, Eleanor and her family continue to support Hope Builders and that original vision they have witnessed come to life. Eleanor's daughter, Tara Cowell, serves on the organization's board of directors. Together, Eleanor and Tara are inspired by the ways Hope Builders



LEFT to RIGHT: Eleanor Brewer and Tara Cowell

changes lives. "It's not just for individuals," Eleanor shares, "but for families, neighborhoods, and entire communities. The program continues to deliver what it promises: pathways to prosperity for young people who need it most."



To donate, volunteer, hire a graduate or learn more, visit our website
tsjhopebuilders.org

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SINCE FEBRUARY,
YOU'VE HELPED
23 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/supporters



Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Aaron Q.	Hurst & Siebert, Inc.	\$23.00
Anita G.	Pacific Neuropsychiatric Specialist	\$23.50
Ashley O.	Cardiology Specialists of Orange County	\$19.50
Caitlinn M.	Dermatology Specialist, Inc.	\$20.50
Cesar M.	SASCO	\$21.00
Joanna B.	Orange County Head Start	\$24.42
Joely R.	Elite Surgical Aftercare	\$22.00
Kaylee S.	Newport Coast Cardiology	\$20.00
Kenia M.	UCI Health	\$23.02
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Omar R.	G.R.I.N.D. Remodeling	\$19.00
Sabrinna S.	Terry & Kim Eye Institute	\$21.00
Samantha S.	Catalyst Kids — Tustin Ranch	\$19.00
Skylaa R.	Amistad Medical Clinic	\$19.00
Yessenia V.	Central City Community Health Center	\$21.00

HECTOR:
A HOPE BUILDERS
SUCCESS STORY

APPLICANT STAGE

At 26 years old, Hector felt stuck. As a high school dropout, his career options were extremely limited. Wanting more for himself than a series of minimum-wage jobs, he researched potential opportunities and decided to learn a trade. However, his hope quickly dimmed as he realized every trade school was far too expensive for him.

When Hector first heard about Hope Builders, he saw it as a rare opportunity to learn a trade at no cost to him. Eager for a brighter future, he decided to apply.

TRAINEE STAGE

Hope Builders offered Hector the opportunity he wanted to learn carpentry skills. But what surprised him was the additional support he received while in training.

Hector was matched to a support specialist to address the barriers holding him back and develop the soft skills that employers look for. Hector also enrolled in a program to obtain his high school diploma, and received coaching on time management to balance his training requirements with his diploma coursework. His support specialist also helped him renew his expired driver's license, opening up opportunities beyond his immediate neighborhood.

Of the support he received, Hector shares, "To have someone that wants to see you succeed, it's incredible, it truly means so much to me. It fills me with a sense of self-confidence."

“
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”

CAREER BUILDER STAGE

Upon successful completion of training, Hector worked with a recruiter at HBCC, Hope Builders' social enterprise staffing agency. He was offered full-time employment by VCI Builds, a general contractor and HBCC partner, starting at \$41,000 annually. This job would be Hector's first time working in a field that offered opportunities for career progression.

HOPE BUILDER STAGE

Hector recently celebrated a milestone — six months of continuous employment at VCI Builds. In recognition of his outstanding performance on the job, he received a raise, and now earns more than \$47,000 annually. Hector proudly shares that he is on his way to reaching his dreams. "I will be forever grateful for Hope Builders and the opportunity you've given me."



THE POWER OF
PARTNERSHIP:
CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY LEADERS
TRANSFORM LIVES

In the mid 1990's, Hope Builders began offering carpentry workshops to youth who were disconnected from the workforce, many of whom had real interest and aptitude for work in the building trades. It quickly became apparent that to successfully launch careers, these workshops alone would not be sufficient. Young people needed more: a comprehensive construction curriculum, a safe location and materials to train with, support to overcome personal barriers to entering the workforce, and a foot in the door with local employers.

Hope Builders' partners rose to the challenge. They made introductions to area construction industry leaders who, in addition to providing material support, offered professional insights to developing the Construction Training Program. They helped Hope Builders find a warehouse to house formal hard skills training, and raised the funds to purchase it. They continued to leverage their networks, inviting colleagues and competitors to visit Hope Builders and support the organization's transformative work.

Orange County's construction industry leaders continue to gather annually at the Builder's Luncheon. This year's event, held on May 21st, was hosted by Clark Construction, McCarthy Building Companies and DPR Construction. Attended by more than 100 guests representing dozens of contractors and subcontractors, the event is an opportunity for the industry to join together to support the future construction workforce of Orange County. Just like the early days of Hope Builders, we are thankful to these partners for unlocking potential and transforming lives.



Give a gift that moves a young person, like Hector, from poverty to prosperity.

Scan here to donate



To volunteer, hire a graduate or learn more, visit our website tsjhopebuilders.org or contact us at info@tsjhopebuilders.org 714-543-5105