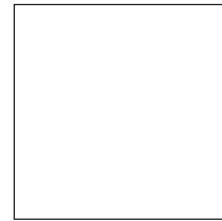


HOPE BUILDERS

801 N. Broadway
Santa Ana, CA 92701



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VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN

AUG. 23–SEPT. 1, 2025

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PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY.

tsjhopebuilders.org

HOPE
BUILDERS



A NOTE FROM SHAWNA SMITH, CEO

At Hope Builders, our mission is fueled by acts of heroism. Our young people show incredible courage acknowledging the challenges they face on the path towards a brighter future, determined to break cycles of poverty and transform their lives.

Our supporters fuel that transformation with unwavering generosity and bold action investing in young people they may never meet.

Among these superheroes, the Sisters of St. Joseph stand tall. Their vision and compassion built the foundation we stand on today, and their legacy continues to inspire every transformation achieved.

Thank you for being part of this heroic journey. Together, we are unlocking greatness and building hope.

With deep gratitude,

Shawna Smith
Shawna Smith

HOPE BUILDERS NEWSLETTER | FALL 2025



Over the past 30 years, countless Heroes of Hope—supporters, employers, board members, staff, and alumni—have shaped Hope Builders into the transformative organization it is today. Their generosity, mentorship, and perseverance have opened doors for over 7,500 young people seeking a pathway to prosperity.

This fall, during our annual **10 Days for Launching Careers** celebration, we'll highlight stories of the superheroes who performed bold deeds to beat the odds with integrity, courage and compassion to benefit our community. This is more than just a fundraising event; it's a chance to honor three decades of impact and inspire the next 30 years of change.

Join us for Hope Builders' Annual Fundraiser,
10 DAYS FOR LAUNCHING CAREERS



SCAN HERE
to see all the opportunities for you to show your support

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To volunteer, hire a graduate or learn more, visit our website

tsjhopebuilders.org

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SINCE APRIL,
YOU'VE HELPED
34 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
Andrea R.	Newport Orthopedic Institute	\$24.00
Bianca L.V.	Associated Gastroenterology Medical Group	\$19.00
Cromwell A.	Hoag Clinic	\$24.00
Daisy M.	OC Pediatrics	\$20.00
Danna F.	Coastal Hills Dermatology	\$21.00
DeQuan G.	W.A. Rasic Construction	\$23.00
Evelyn J.	Strategic Kids	\$20.00
Jacqueline R.	United Behavior Consultants	\$22.00
Kevin G.	Reviv Functional Psychiatry & TMS Wellness Center	\$20.00
Kevin V.	One Step Ahead Construction Inc.	\$23.75
Kimberly R.	PAL's	\$21.00
Sophia G.	PAL's	\$22.00

HOPE IN ACTION:
ALUMNA PERLA LOPEZ

An 1996, at just 18 years old, Perla Lopez stood at a crossroads. She had dropped out of high school, was pregnant, and felt lost with no prospects for how to provide for herself and her daughter. But internally, a transformation had begun. Motherhood ignited a determination in Perla to break the cycle of poverty and build a better life for her child.

When Perla heard about Hope Builders, she leapt at the opportunity for a second chance and a path forward.

Hope Builders helped Perla earn her GED, taught her life skills, from how to interview and dress professionally to opening a bank account and getting a driver's license.

Perla's first job was as a receptionist at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. She later joined Hope Builders' staff, dedicating 21 years to helping others walk the same path she had. "Hope Builders is my alma mater," she says with pride.

Throughout her career, Perla has exemplified the traits that make a Hero of Hope: initiative,



Perla Lopez and her family

accountability, resilience and reliability. In spite of any challenges she faced, she continuously committed the time and effort to improve her skills, advance her career and realize her dreams. Today, Perla is the Executive Assistant to the Office of the Co-Presidents at Rady Children's Hospital in Orange County, where her skillset and experience provide valuable support to the executive suite.

To Perla, Hope Builders didn't just help her find a job—it transformed generations. Her daughter Melissa, who Perla was pregnant with when she joined Hope Builders, is now a Senior Software Engineer at Google and an NYU graduate. Her son Jesse is studying Civil Engineering at Cal State Fullerton.

Perla Lopez is a Hope Builder—and a true Hero of Hope.

CHAMPIONS OF
OPPORTUNITY:
PAT AND
JILL ORTIZ

Pat and Jill Ortiz are Heroes of Hope who helped lay the foundation, quite literally, from which Hope Builders continues to empower young people to build a pathway to prosperity.

Their journey began in 1997, when Hope Builders was still young and bench making was one of the few hands-on opportunities available to students. As a seasoned professional in the construction industry, Pat saw potential. He and Jill jumped in offering financial support, rallying friends, and opening doors to industry connections.

Pat advocated moving beyond benches to full-scale construction training. As the program expanded, it became clear Hope Builders needed more space in which to accomplish this. Soon after, our founder Sister Eileen dragged Pat to any and every rundown location in Santa Ana. Pat and Jill encouraged her to dream bigger. Together, they helped secure a newly built warehouse a few blocks from the downtown location and raise funds to make the construction training center a reality.



Pat and Jill Ortiz

Additionally, Pat served as a board member for 9 years and was Chairman for 3 years. During his tenure, he worked with the management team to provide guidance for the development of the training curriculum. Ultimately, the approach to skills training became the program model the organization continues to deploy today—hands-on training coupled with mentorship, employment and life skills.

Through their involvement, Pat and Jill Ortiz have helped young people build careers, confidence, and hope for their future.

POWER
PARTNER:
ABAE

ABAE is a visionary employer who recognizes that investing in young talent is smart business. Introduced to Hope Builders by Office Manager Angie Rodriguez, a proud Hope Builders alumna,

ABAE looks to Hope Builders Career Connections (HBCC), the organization's social enterprise staffing agency, to hire behavioral technicians to meet their staffing needs.

Over the past decade, the Orange County behavioral health sector has seen a growing need for workers trained to support children with autism and related diagnoses. By partnering with HBCC, ABAE has gained access to a pipeline of motivated, trained

talent prepared to make an immediate impact as behavioral technicians. In total, they have hired 27 Hope Builders alumni over the past several years. These young adults are providing a valuable service to the county, improving outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.

ABAE is a catalyst for change and a Hero of Hope. Their leadership not only strengthens their own workforce but helps shape the future of our community.



Give a gift that moves a young person, like Perla, 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