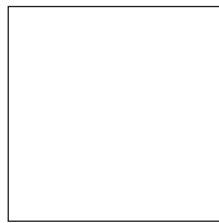


HOPE BUILDERS

801 N. Broadway
Santa Ana, CA 92701



SAVE THE DATE

IN-PERSON KICK-OFF
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AUG. 27, 2026

VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN

AUG. 29 – SEPT. 7, 2026

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tsjhopebuilders.org/fundraiser



A NOTE FROM SHAWNA SMITH, CEO



I recently returned from a pilgrimage to Le Puy, France, where I joined the Sisters of St. Joseph to explore where they were founded in 1650. The early Sisters were called into action by the tremendous need that surrounded them. Their response to that call helped reimagine how to care for those in need and inspired innumerable others (including you and me) to join them over their 400-year history.

They could not have known how their journey of faith would reach across the

world and all the way to Orange County, California. As I reflect on my pilgrimage experience, I am profoundly aware of the courage required to undertake this type of endeavor. I am privileged to witness its legacy alive in the hundreds of young people who begin their own redemptive journeys through the help of Hope Builders each year.

While we may have a destination in mind, we cannot fully know where our own journeys will lead us or whose lives it will

touch. Young people seek out Hope Builders hoping for a better job or a paycheck. What begins as job training inevitably becomes so much more—stability for a family, stronger communities, and new possibilities for the next generation.

Each day of the pilgrimage I prayed that you would know the impact of your support extends far beyond what any of us can fully see today.

In gratitude,

Shawna Smith
Shawna Smith

SUCCESS IN ACTION

Construction Site Visit Shows Trainees What's Possible



As part of Hope Builders' Construction Training Program, trainees regularly participate in job walks with industry partners to gain firsthand exposure to active construction sites and better understand how the skills they are learning in the classroom are applied in the field. These visits give trainees the opportunity to explore different trades, observe professionals at work, ask questions, and begin visualizing their own future careers in the construction industry.

Recently, Hope Builders trainees visited a jobsite hosted by Clark Construction. To their surprise, they found Hope Builders alumnus Luis working onsite.

Before joining Hope Builders in 2023, Luis worked part-time jobs while searching for greater stability and opportunity. He excelled in the Construction Training Program, and was matched

with employment as a General Laborer with Clark Construction through HBCC, our social enterprise staffing agency.

Today, nearly three years later, he continues building his career at Clark Construction, gaining hands-on experience across multiple trades. His responsibilities include demolition, carpentry, concrete work, and pipe repairs—skills he first began developing during his training at Hope Builders.

Since launching his career, Luis has moved into his own apartment, purchased his own car, and is helping support his family. He is also working toward purchasing a home.

Luis credits Hope Builders with helping him strengthen both his technical and professional skills.

“Hope Builders helped me improve my communication with supervisors and foremen, develop professional behavior, learn accountability and punctuality, and build a strong work ethic,” Luis shared. “The hard skills training I received is something I still use daily.”

Hope Builders is grateful to Clark Construction for hosting this job walk and investing in the next generation of construction professionals. We are equally thankful to Luis for sharing his journey and reminding trainees of what is possible through hard work, opportunity, and support.

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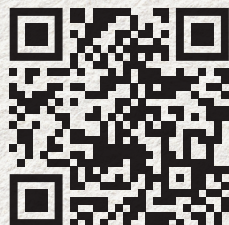
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SINCE FEBRUARY, YOU'VE HELPED 27 YOUNG PEOPLE START CAREERS

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Name	Employer	Hourly Wage
Andy P.	Padilla Electric Builders	\$22.00
Brian G.	Marca Construction, Inc.	\$18.50
Brittney M.	Camino Health Center	\$22.00
Claudia C.	Elizabeth R. Reyes, MD	\$19.00
Emily L.	Denali Door And Window Company	\$22.00
Gabriela J.	Ingenes Orange County	\$22.00
Jaden E.	SoCal Contracting, Inc.	\$19.00
Jonathan M.	Denali Door And Window Company	\$22.00
Maria-Paula C.	ABA Enhancements	\$22.00
Monserat O.	Camino Health Center	\$22.00
Precious M.	City of Hope	\$22.00
Rosemarie T.	United Behavior Consultants	\$22.00
Valerie A.	Sydea Medical Practice	\$19.00
Victoria W.	ABA Enhancements	\$22.00
Yamileth R.	United Behavior Consultants	\$22.00

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KENNETH

Today, 31-year-old Kenneth Ramirez is a licensed C-10 Electrical Contractor and business owner who has built a growing company, created jobs for others, and established stability for his family.

But his path was not always clear.

Kenneth grew up in Anaheim in a low-income family. After graduating from high school, he didn't have direction for his future and moved between warehouse jobs, searching for stability and a sense of purpose.

He admits that when he heard about Hope Builders, he was initially skeptical about joining the program. It was his wife, also a Hope Builders graduate, who encouraged him to take the opportunity seriously. He enrolled in the Construction Training Program in 2014.

That decision changed the course of his life.

"Hope Builders was a stepping stone to my success," Kenneth shared. "It helped me grow both professionally and personally."

After graduating, Kenneth entered the electrical field and enrolled in an apprenticeship program. Over the next eight years, he worked with multiple companies, continuing to build his technical skills and industry knowledge.

In 2022, he launched ClimaxCCU Professional Cleaning, a commercial cleaning business that has steadily grown through persistence, networking, and relationship-building.

Last year, ClimaxCCU Professional Cleaning generated approximately \$250,000 in revenue

“
HOPE BUILDERS
WAS A STEPPING
STONE TO MY
SUCCESS ...”

—KENNETH RAMIREZ

and employed six team members in both full- and part-time positions.

Kenneth now plans to continue expanding the business. He hopes to hire future Hope Builders graduates and create opportunities for others looking for a chance to build stable, meaningful careers.

However, his most important success is measured beyond business growth. He is most proud of the stability he has been able to create for his family.

Now a father of two children, ages 12 and 15, Kenneth sees a very different future for them than the one he experienced growing up. Because of the foundation he has built, his children are not carrying the same uncertainty he once did. Instead, they are beginning to talk about college and long-term academic goals, a reflection of the level of stability he worked hard to achieve.

For Kenneth and young adults like him, Hope Builders is more than job training. It is a launching point that reshapes trajectories and influences families and communities for generations.



BUILDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

The 2026 Builder's Luncheon brought together dozens of Orange County's leading contractors and subcontractors, who share a common goal: strengthening the region's workforce pipeline by creating pathways to prosperity.

Hosted annually by Clark Construction, McCarthy Building Companies, and DPR Construction, the event is a strong show of support for the next generation of skilled workers and the economic opportunity they create for our region. This year's attendees heard how Hope Builders' Construction Training Program launches young adults on a journey to lasting change, preparing them for success at every stage of their careers, from their first job to their best job. Along the way, graduates strengthen the construction industry, support their families, and influence the stability of communities across Orange County.

One of the most inspiring moments of the afternoon came from Hope Builders alumnus Kenneth Ramirez, Class of 2014, who returned to share his personal career journey with attendees. His story from trainee to business owner highlighted the ripple effect caused by the support of construction industry leaders at the luncheon more than 10 years ago.

As attendees left the luncheon, they were reminded that supporting workforce development is ultimately an investment in people and potential. The support of construction industry leaders creates opportunities for long-term career growth, economic mobility, and future leadership within the industry itself.

Read the following article to learn more about Kenneth Ramirez's journey from Hope Builders trainee to business owner.



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

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