

2023 - 2024

IMPACT REPORT



hope
RENOVATIONS



BREAKING NEW GROUND

A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

FRIENDS,

I'm filled with immense gratitude as we reflect on another period of growth and impact at Hope Renovations. We've come such a long way since our inception and I'm proud of the progress we've made – thanks to you.

In the two years since our last impact report, so much has happened. Exciting changes like extending our operations to Durham and Raleigh. Proud milestones like training our 150th graduate, and completing our 300th aging-in-place project. Incredible exposure, including an episode on BYUtv's Making Good, a feature on PBS NC, a spotlight in Builder Magazine, and many more. And major challenges, like the termination of our federal grant funding – and the fight to get it back.

Through it all, you've been right there with us. But when it comes to impact, it's the stories of Hope that truly show the way we are building futures and transforming lives. Like the incredible journeys of Hope graduate Pawn and homeowner Furaha, whose experiences you'll read about inside our report.

And of course, none of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment of our generous donors, collaborative partners, and dedicated board, staff, and volunteers. Your passion for our mission fuels our work and empowers us to create lasting change.

We remain endlessly grateful that you are part of this wonderful journey of hope.

All my best,

Nora El-Khouri Spencer



Hope Renovations builds futures and transforms lives with a dual mission: preparing underemployed women and gender expansive individuals for construction careers, and helping older adults age in place.

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MEET PAWN BAKER

Pawn Baker's journey is a testament to the transformative impact of Hope's programs and her own strength. A single mother of two, Pawn found herself in unfamiliar territory when she first sought support from Hope. Faced with the challenge of providing for her young children, she knew she needed to find a way to become self-sufficient.

Overcoming personal obstacles, Pawn demonstrated unwavering determination as she embarked on Hope's training program. Today, Pawn's hard work and dedication have paid off in extraordinary ways. She has successfully transitioned from **an intern to a full-time, permanent employee at Messer Construction**, a significant achievement marked by a well-deserved raise and a new set of tools. But her story doesn't end there. Messer's commitment to her growth is evident in their enrollment of Pawn in a **four-year apprenticeship program at Wake Tech**, where she will earn her Journeyman Laborer and Journeyman Carpenter credentials.

"I entered Hope's trades program as a single mother of two young children and Hope helped me change my life in the most positive way possible. Hope gave me confidence in myself. I was able to intern at Messer Construction and then obtain full-time employment after my internship was over. Hope literally helped me pave my new life. I honestly don't know where I would be right now if it were not for Hope Renovations."

-Pawn Baker



PAWN BAKER
GRADUATE



PAWN AND FELLOW TRAINEES

MEET JOSH BOWLIN

MESSER CONSTRUCTION

“Partnering and recruiting from Hope Renovations helps us create a pipeline of new people coming into Messer to learn a trade.

-Josh Bowlin



Messer Construction initially connected with Hope Renovations back in 2021, inviting a cohort to tour a commercial project they were working on. While the pandemic temporarily paused their collaboration, the partnership resumed in early 2024 through a networking event. Since then, Messer has been actively involved in reviewing resumes, conducting phone screens, interviewing candidates, and offering internships.

Collaborating with training programs like Hope Renovations is a strategic initiative for Messer, implemented across their 11 regions in the Southeast and Midwest. “With the major shortage of skilled workers, partnering and recruiting from Hope Renovations helps us create a pipeline of new people coming into Messer to learn a trade.”

Messer has observed numerous benefits from hiring Hope graduates stating, “Before students are placed with employers, they have already gained many skills that set a solid foundation that can be applied to continuous education.”



MEET FURAHA YOUNGBLOOD



FURAHA YOUNGBLOOD
HOMEOWNER

Furaha Youngblood, a retired Durham resident, has found a lifeline in Hope. After purchasing her home in 2010, she was able to maintain it through years of steady employment. However, retirement brought financial constraints, making home repairs increasingly difficult.

“Hope has been a God-send,” Youngblood shared. “On a fixed income, it’s impossible to tackle the issues my home is facing alone.”

Her initial plea to Hope was for assistance with a crumbling wooden bannister, a safety hazard as well as an eyesore. Hope quickly responded, sending our crew to assess the situation. “The two women who came out were so professional in photographing and measuring the bannister,” Youngblood said. “I was notified that I had qualified for bannister replacement, and when



the all-female crew came out--in 90-plus degree heat--**their commitment to doing the best job possible, was evident.**"

Youngblood's story is a testament to the impact Hope has on the lives of Durham's seniors, providing not just physical improvements to homes, but also peace of mind and a sense of security.

"Hope has been a God-send. On a fixed income, it's impossible to tackle the issues my home is facing alone."

-Faraha Youngblood

MEET MICHELE VERNON

"In 2021 I took my daughter-in-law and grandkids to a Hope Mother's Day building together program. We built and painted bird feeders, used power drills and met Nora and members of the Hope team. Nora had a clear vision of what she wanted Hope to accomplish - after that I was hooked on Hope. My father was a general contractor, and I was a former VP and designer at an interior



MICHELE VERNON
DONOR

design firm in Washington, DC - building is in my blood. I always loved my time on the job site watching the drawings become what we envisioned with the skills of talented workers.

Accessibility for 'aging in place' is a passion due to my husband's disabilities after battling brain cancer. Honestly, how could I not find that Hope Renovations is the perfect charity for me?

Not only does Hope help women find amazing careers and earning potential, but **what I love is the confidence they give women, which is invaluable."**



“Not only does Hope help women find amazing careers and earning potential, but what I love is the confidence they give women, which is invaluable.”

-Michele Vernon

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS



MOTHER'S DAY EVENT, **MAY 13, 2023**

Our workshop came alive with creativity as moms and mentors joined their kids to build and personalize tea trays. It was a delightful day of hands-on DIY, sparking imagination for all ages.

"[The event] was beyond amazing & it was great seeing everyone and making great connections. Can't wait for the next one."

-Shenna Jones



HOPE'S FIRST ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT, **APRIL 17, 2024**

To celebrate the milestone of training 100 wonderful people, we brought folks together to catch up and meet others from different cohorts.



JULIE SU VISIT, MAY 16, 2024

Julie Su, acting US Secretary of Labor, visited Hope Renovations to discuss the barriers women and gender expansive folks face when seeking construction careers, as well as the need for workforce development investment in our communities.



SUMMER SOIREE, JUNE 22, 2024

The Carolina Inn was a beautiful setting for our biggest fundraiser of the year, where we raised over \$100,000.



MAKING GOOD EPISODE PREMIERE, JUNE 23, 2024

We were featured on BYU TV's show *Making Good*, sharing insights into the root of our work and mission alongside host Kirby Heyborne.



COHORT GRADUATION, **JULY 11, 2024**

Celebrating cohorts from Durham, Raleigh and Carrboro, we hosted our biggest cohort graduation yet.



HOPEN HOUSE, **OCTOBER 20, 2024**

We invited the community out to see our workshop with family and friends.
We also raised funds for our friends in Western North Carolina.



GIVING TUESDAY WORKSHOP, **DECEMBER 3, 2024**

Hope hosted a workshop for little builders to craft heirloom quality sound marble runs.
Attendees brought toys to donate to those in need for the Holidays.



2023-2024 DONORS

\$25,000-\$50,000

The Farley Fisher Gift Fund

Christina Forest

Diane and Michael Fournel

The Tom and Pat Gipson Fund of Triangle
Community Foundation

Susan and Michael Hershfield Family Fund

Michele Vernon

\$10,000-\$24,999

Heather Altman and James Shortridge

Steve and Denise Vanderwoude

\$5,000-\$9,999

Carl and Susan Baumann

Bertsch Family Charitable Foundation, Inc

Kathy Lake and Don Kauchak

O. Max Gardner Foundation

Claire Haslam and Douglas Williams

Bill and Maria Meyer

Soleil Moscona

Matthew and Carol Ann Nash

Doug and Carrie Norry

\$1,000-\$4,999

Elie and Janane Abou-Rheijeh
Marianne Apple
Debra Armstrong
Leigh Austin
Lindsay Bertell
Dawn and John Blanchard
Amber and Forrest Boaz
Alice Brees
Cathy Bryson
Rob and Sally Burlington
Nick and Janel Burns
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Charles Cleary and Mary Shaw
Sandra Cook
Samantha Corte
Gary Davis
Early Light Educational Consulting
Catherine El-Khouri
Enbridge Gas North Carolina
Leo Gaev and Heather Ferrell
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AC and Kathryn George
Lynne and Roger Gerber
Gizmo Brew Works
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Chandra Guinn

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Jennifer Hoffman
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The Insurance People
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Helga Knox
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Wanda Shive

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Pat Sprigg and Curt Torell
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Vasudha Gupta Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
Whit Walker
Hank Wall
Tine Ward
Missy and Jeff Warren
Zarazua Painting

\$1-\$999

The Abundance Fund
Acorn + Oak Property Management
David Adeimy
Leah Adeniji
Bruce Albers
Alpha Delta Kappa - NC Alpha Mu Chapter
Jessica Atwood
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Stephanie Avett
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Alan Bancroft
Judi Bartle
Nathan and Rachel Bearman
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Carlo Berruti

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C. Maggie Bowers
Nancy Boyken
Judy Brackett
Beth Briggs
Ella Bronstein
Michele Brothers
Angel Brown
Jeanne and Monte Brown
Hillary Bruce
Debra and Jim Buck
Jean Cadigan
California Resources Corporation
Bobbie Caraher
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The Cassilhaus Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
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Mark Chamberlain

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Rachel Chang	Brenda Edwards	Stephen and Margaret Griffin	Jennie Knowlton
Julie Chappell	Karen Eldridge	Barbara Grizzle	Kaitlyn Kopala
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Julie Cibulskas	George El-Khoury	Dana Hanson	Kim and Drew Langsam
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PHE, Inc	Damon Seils	Lacy Talton	Elizabeth Wooten
Pilgrim United Church of	Ellen Shannon	Jacqueline and James	Ferol Vernon
Christ Church Auxiliary	Barbara Shaw	Tanner	Jessica Villagrana
Carol Pinkasavage	Christine Shaw	Christene Tashjian	Debra Vines
Kari Lee Points	Cindy Shea	Leo and Charlene Terlep	James Zahorsky
Allison and Jeff Polish	Michael Shiver	Shannon Thielman	Lisa Zerden
Anne Pope	Thomas Shiver	Elizabeth Thomas	Colleen Zinn
Sylvia Pratt	Carl Shy	Laurie Thomas	
Alex Price	BJ Silver	Carole Tom	
Primetimer Group -	Cindy Sink	Lindsay Tomlinson	
Aldersgate UMC	Emily Singleton	Kathleen Toner	
Elizabeth Pyle	Barbara Sirvis	TriPointe Homes	
Daphne Quinn	Skanska	Debra Tucker	
John Rees	David and Linda Slack	Heidi Tyson	
Rick Rees	Maryah Smith-Overman	The UK Online Giving	
Jacquie Richards		Foundation	

PROGRAM BUILDERS, FUNDERS, CORPORATE PARTNERS

Program Builders

Acorn + Oak Property Management	NAWIC Triangle
BOLD Construction	NCWorks
B. Wallace Design & Construction	Orange County Housing Preservation Coalition
BuildSense	Orange County Department on Aging
Capital Area Workforce Development	OWASA
Central Piedmont Community Action	Paragon Building Group
Charlie Hagen-Cazès	Rebuilding Together of the Triangle
Dynamic Electric	Sherwin Williams
Durham Technical Community College	Sears Contract Inc.
Family Success Alliance	StepUp Durham
Fifth Third Bank	South Orange Rescue Squad
Gonzalez Painters & Contractors	Thalle
Habitat for Humanity of Durham County	The Downsizers
Habitat for Humanity of Orange County	Town of Carrboro Fire and Rescue
Habitat for Humanity of Wake County	Urban Durham Realty
Intrepid Build	UNC School of Social Work
J. Hoffman Studio Design + Build	Wake Technical Community College
Messer Construction	WeaverCooke
	Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

Major Funders

Lowe's Foundation
Oak Foundation
United Way of the Greater Triangle
Strowd Roses
Orange County Economic Development
The Meldrum Foundation
Apparo
Carol Woods
Duke University
Ferguson
Town of Carrboro
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
Town of Chapel Hill
Duke Health
Coastal Credit Union Foundation
John William Pope Foundation

Our Partners

Fitch Lumber

Intrepid Build

Southern Energy Management

Garman Homes

Brasfield & Gorrie

Gonzalez Painters & Contractors

Coastal Credit Union

Duke Energy Foundation

BOLD Construction

Wilkinson Supply

Haven Design Build

West End Design Build

Whiting-Turner

Atma Hotel Group

Paragon Building Group

PDI Drywall

The Appliance Center of Durham

B. Wallace Design and Construction

BuildSense

Grant Group Architecture

Grau Building Company

Leo Gaev

Red Ladder Residential

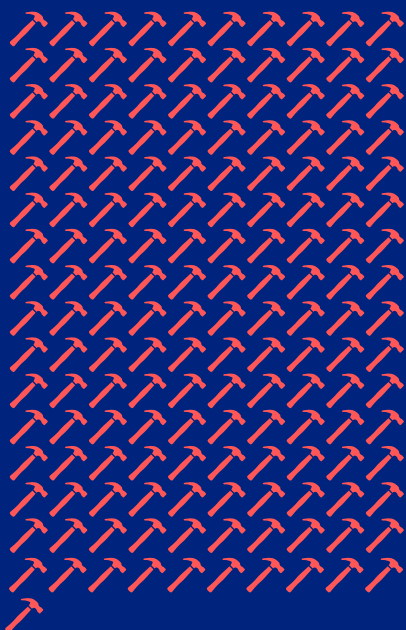
Custom Carpentry Group



ALL-TIME PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

NUMBER OF
PROGRAM GRADUATES

166



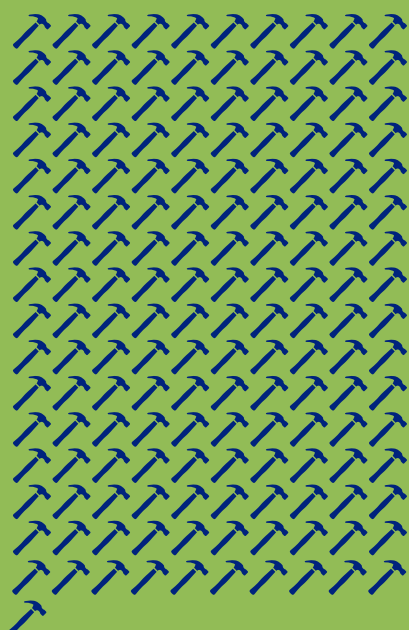
CURRENTLY EMPLOYED
IN THE TRADES

117

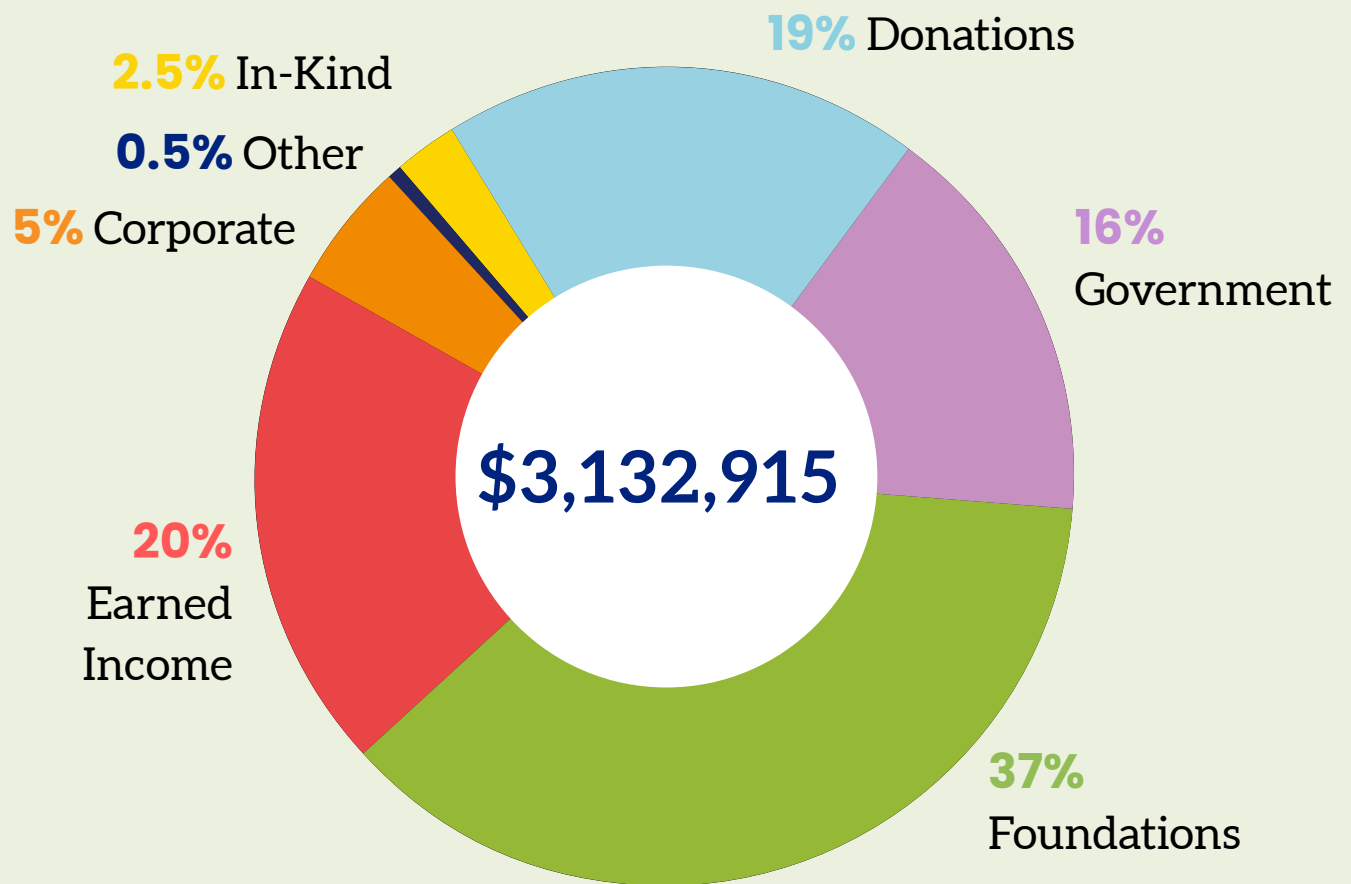


CURRENTLY EARNING
\$15 OR MORE PER HOUR
2 YEARS POST PROGRAM

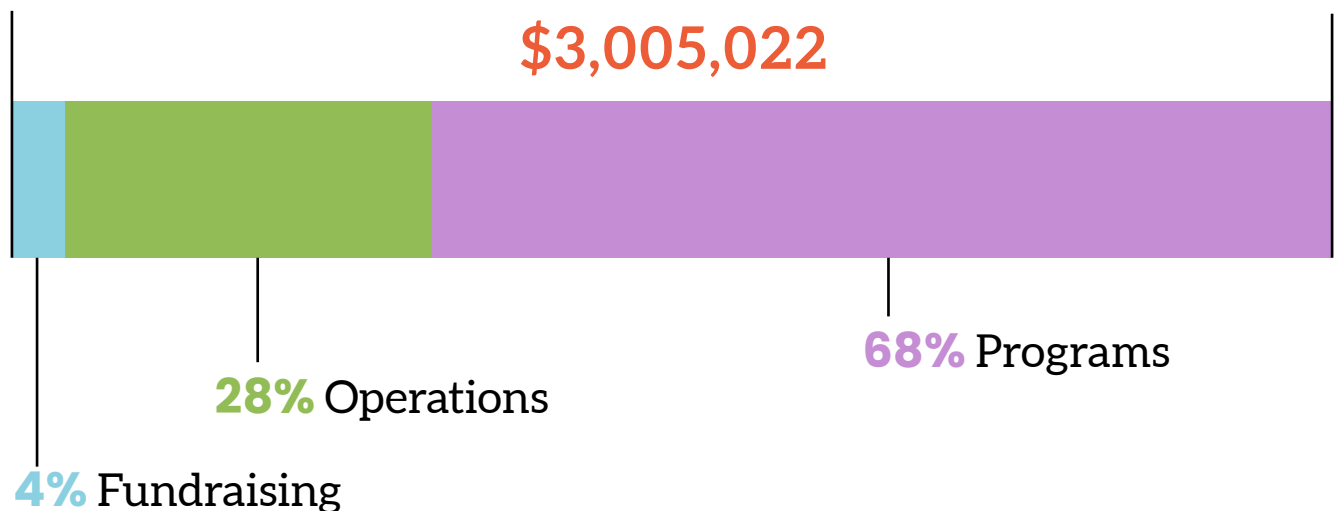
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2023-2024 **REVENUE**



2023-2024 **EXPENDITURES**





hope
RENOVATIONS