

Cabins,

Carpentry

& Contribution



Project Build Students Make a Difference

ON A SATURDAY MORNING this past February, a group of JobTrain's Project Build trainees rolled up their sleeves for a unique kind of learning experience — one that took place in the El Cerrito hills.

Eight Project Build students, accompanied by their instructor Marty Mendibles — and even one student's son — joined forces with volunteers from the San Francisco Job Corps program, union journeyman carpenters, and members of the Boy Scouts to bring new life to Camp Herms. Their mission: help construct two new cabins that would serve future generations of Scouts.

By day's end, the group had successfully installed siding and raised roof trusses — no small feat. But the real achievement went beyond the hammer and nails.

This was learning in action — real-world construction experience — the kind of hands-on teamwork that

builds confidence and camaraderie — not to mention real career skills. For JobTrain trainees, it was also a chance to work side-by-side with peers from other programs and receive valuable guidance from seasoned professionals in the field.

"It gave our students exposure to real construction work and the opportunity to learn from journey-men in the field."

— MARTY MENDIBLES

And yes, there were also burritos. At noon, the teams were treated to a simple but satisfying lunch — a moment to rest, refuel, and share stories.

"Working together like that — with different teams, under real job-site conditions — it was a powerful experience," said Marty. "It gave our students exposure to real construction work and the opportunity to learn from journeymen in the field."

Every JobTrain program is designed to support our students on their path toward economic mobility. This volunteer project is one example of how we're helping students learn, grow, and give back — one cabin, one nail, one life-changing day at a time.★



Breakfast of Champions, our main fundraising event, was held on April 30. These photos reflect the energy of a morning filled with purpose, pride, and a shared commitment to turning potential into prosperity.

More Than a Job — A Second Chance at Life

A volunteer's unexpected perspective on the power of your support.

WHEN I SIGNED UP to volunteer at JobTrain's event, I thought I'd be helping with check-ins and listening to a few speeches. I didn't expect to be moved. But from the moment I walked through the doors, I felt something powerful. The energy in the room was hopeful and deeply personal.

What I saw and heard that day made one thing clear: JobTrain isn't just about jobs. It's about helping people rebuild. Every graduate who spoke had faced serious challenges and every single one stood tall, with pride and purpose.

Brianna Garcia talked about finding her confidence again through JobTrain's Property Management program — not just to build a career, but to support her family. Esmeralda Cerrato rose from administrative assistant to regional director. Chef Gilberto Godinez Garcia, a JobTrain graduate, now runs his own restaurant. These stories weren't just professional successes. They were transformations.

"This isn't just a job placement service. It's a place where people find confidence again. Purpose. A second chance."

It struck me how much goes into making these transformations possible and how hard it is to keep programs like this funded. The need has never been greater. And yet, JobTrain quietly, relentlessly, does the work. Coaching. Mentoring. Offering wraparound support. Giving people the tools to believe in themselves again.

As a volunteer, I only played a small role — helping people find seats and offering directions. But it meant something. One graduate, Brianna, even took time to talk with me afterward and offer advice. She didn't have to but that's the kind of community JobTrain builds. It's one where people lift each other up.

To everyone who makes this work possible — thank you.

Your belief in JobTrain is felt in every handshake, every proud smile, every new beginning. I saw it up close, and I won't forget it. ★





1200 O'Brien Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #63
Burlingame, CA

SUPPORT JOBTRAIN



Jade trains to become a
Certified Nursing Assistant.

From Uncertainty to Stability — Because of You

Jade was 17 when she landed in juvenile hall. Fear filled her eyes — not just the fear of being locked up, but fear that this would define her life.

When she got out, she found JobTrain instructors who saw her potential, not her record. They gave her a chance to believe in herself again — a future in healthcare, a paycheck she could rely on, and a purpose she could be proud of.

Today, Jade is working in a job she loves — and she inspires her siblings to aim higher.

That's what you make possible.



Support our programs.
Donate today at jobtrainworks.org
or scan the QR Code