



## Apprenticeship Preparation Program

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Building skills, stability and self-confidence  
on a pathway to careers in the construction trades



Photos: Brian Biery

### Creating Opportunities for Meaningful Employment

The free Apprenticeship Preparation Program (APP) is a pathway to careers in the construction trades for unemployed and under-employed men and women, age 17-1/2 and up.

The certificate course, taught by instructors from Pasadena City College, is offered three times a year at two local community centers. Afternoon and evening sessions are available, except during summer.

Over a 16-week period (ten during summer), we cover basic safety, construction math, blueprints, rigging, hand and power tools, "green" building concepts and other topics, including employability skills, to help students successfully apply for paid union apprenticeships.

Students also go on field trips to union apprenticeship training facilities, construction sites and LEED-certified buildings.

In addition, we provide case management and peer-to-peer support services to help individuals overcome challenging life issues that are barriers to employment

### Economic Self-Sufficiency Transforms Lives

California's high unemployment rate (over 12%) is even higher for African Americans and Latinos. Unemployment in NW Pasadena has reached 18% for adults and 50% for young adults.

Chronic joblessness affects community well-being as much as families. A loss of hope can lead to crime and gang involvement.

Flintridge developed the Apprenticeship Preparation Program in 2008 in partnership with Councilmember Jacque Robinson, L.A. County Commission on Human Relations and an alliance of community stakeholders to provide high-risk individuals with a chance for productive and rewarding lives.

The construction trades offer health insurance, retirement options and opportunities for advancement. Prior gang connections, tattoos or a criminal record are not deterrents to career success.

**Mission:** To build hope and resilience in the lives of youth and their families in Northwest Pasadena and West Altadena. We work in partnership with the community to provide life-changing services and to act as a catalyst for pragmatic solutions that reduce community violence, improve academic achievement, and launch career paths for the benefit of the greater Pasadena/Altadena area.

**Vision:** A healthy, safe community where families thrive, youth reach their full potential, and equality and opportunity are accessible to all.

*“I thought being a man meant going to prison. Now I’ve learned another way. This program saved my life ... and probably my son’s life too.”*

**APP Graduate**

**It doesn’t matter where you’ve been .... It matters where you’re going!**

### **We Get Results**

Nearly 200 students have completed the course.

Graduates have gone on to union apprenticeships, are working in construction-related or other fields, or are pursuing additional education.

Flintridge works with a variety of agencies to identify jobs for graduates. These include the City of Pasadena’s First Source Hiring Program, Alta/Pasa Community Improvement Center, B&P Painting and other contractors and builders.

In addition to helping graduates find jobs, Flintridge assists them with the union application process, including identifying funds for union fees and purchasing required equipment (boots, hard hat, tool belt, gloves, etc.).

### **Join us in building career skills and transforming lives.**

*Contact Mark Eiduson, Flintridge Center Director of Strategic Partnerships, at 626/449-0839, ext. 128  
or [Mark@Flintridge.org](mailto:Mark@Flintridge.org).*



### **Real lives, real work, real hope**

*Raised by a single mother in Pasadena, Kafshi got into drugs as a youth and dropped out of school. He joined a gang and was arrested for gun possession. While serving time, he found God and determined to change his life. After his release from jail, Kafshi signed up for Flintridge’s APP course as a first step towards a new start. “Never having finished anything before, what was hardest about the class was believing in myself,” he says. But with encouragement from his instructor and classmates, Kafshi graduated APP. He went on to successfully complete the Laborers’ Union ‘boot camp’ and was accepted as a paid apprentice with Local 300. His very first job took him to the Rose Bowl, where he helped install concrete piles. Kafshi is grateful that he can now support his family. He’s on a career path with benefits, a pension and a real future. He gives thanks to Flintridge, saying, “Flintridge people have a heart for others.”*

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