

# JH Journey House NEWS

1232 N. LOS ROBLES • PASADENA, CA 91104 • (626)798-9478 • INFO@JOURNEYHOUSEYOUTH.ORG

## CELEBRATING 22 GRADUATES AS THE CLASS OF 2025



Journey House proudly hosted its annual graduation celebration on June 26th, 2025, at the Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena where we honored 22 outstanding graduates. This meaningful event celebrated the dedication, perseverance, and achievements of students who earned certificates, associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees. We are immensely proud of each graduate for reaching this significant milestone and for continuing to inspire those around them. Surrounded by family, friends, and community members, the evening was a powerful reminder of what's possible through resilience and support. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our new and longtime donors for supporting the mission of Journey House—your commitment makes it possible for former foster youth to have the support that they need to live happy and prosperous lives. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

# *Journey House Graduation Celebration: A Night to Remember*



Journey House's Graduation Celebration Dinner was a huge success—an evening filled with heartfelt emotion, laughter, and joy. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces in attendance, and we were equally excited to welcome new guests who were discovering Journey House for the first time. The night served as a powerful reminder of how our work bridges generations, connecting longtime supporters with a new wave of individuals committed to advancing our mission: supporting foster youth through education and lifelong success.

This year, our community of partners stepped up in extraordinary ways. Thanks to their generosity, each of our 22 graduates walked across the stage surrounded by love, support, and well-deserved recognition for their academic achievements. Every graduate received a special gift from our generous donors at The Assistance League of Arcadia, The Assistance League of Flintridge, Karen Begnard, The Kiwanis Club of La Cañada, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, The Sierra Madre Woman's Club, and The Change Reaction.

In total, Journey House's graduating Class of 2025 received \$30,000 in direct scholarship awards to help launch the next chapter of their lives—a true testament to the power of community and shared purpose.

On behalf of the Journey House staff and Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every donor and supporter who supported our Graduation Celebration. We are especially grateful to those who were unable to attend but contributed behind the scenes to make this celebration possible. Your quiet generosity speaks volumes, and we cannot thank you enough.

We'll be sharing the full gallery of images and videos on our website in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this preview of special moments, beautifully captured by our photographer, Leroy "Photoham" Hamilton.

-Jesse Aguiar  
*Executive Director*

*Congratulations Class of 2025*



# *Journey House Graduation Celebration: A Night to Remember*



We came together this June to celebrate the achievements of our 2025 graduates, honoring the resilience and dedication that brought them to this important milestone.

This year, 22 graduates were recognized for completing their Certifications, Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees. The highlight of the evening was giving our graduates the spotlight to share their experiences and reflect on their educational journeys. Their stories are powerful, and that power deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Our community continues to grow—five of our 22 graduates are new intakes, and more than half plan to continue advancing their education. It is my honor to support and uphold our commitment to creating opportunities for educational advancement.

Supporting our community is a collective effort. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our donors and supporters who believe in our mission and continue to help former foster youth with financial support throughout their education. This year, our graduates were awarded monetary gift cards for professional attire and scholarships to aid their continued success. For many of our Journey House participants, this is not the end—it's another step forward.

I'm incredibly grateful to continue walking this journey alongside them.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025—cheers to your accomplishments and your future!

With gratitude,  
Briana Barcena  
*Case Manager*

*Congratulations Class of 2025*



# Class of 2025



**ALEXANDRA FRAME**

National Holistic Institute:  
College of Massage Therapy  
*Certification in Massage  
Therapist and Health Educator,  
Certification in Advance  
Neuromuscular Therapist*



**ANITA RICO**

California State  
University of Northridge  
*Bachelor's in  
Psychology*



**BRIANA APELU**

California State  
Polytechnic University of  
Pomona  
*Bachelor's in Sociology*



**BORIS FUENTES**

Mount San Antonio  
College  
*Associate's in Sociology*



**CINTHYA REYES**

Pasadena City College  
*Bachelor's in Sociology*



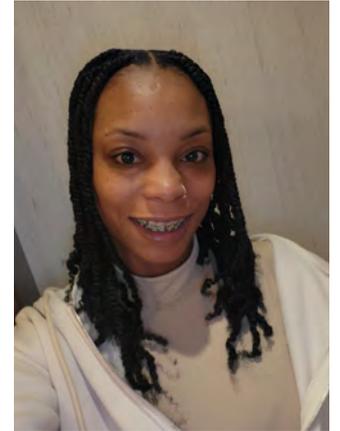
**CYNTHIA BETANCOURT**

Los Angeles Mission College  
*Licensed Vocational Nurse*



**DEANA MARIE  
MENDEZ**

Azusa Pacific University  
*Master's in Social Work*



**EBONY SPICER**

San Jose State University  
*Bachelor's in Interdisciplinary  
Studies: Community and  
Education Leadership*



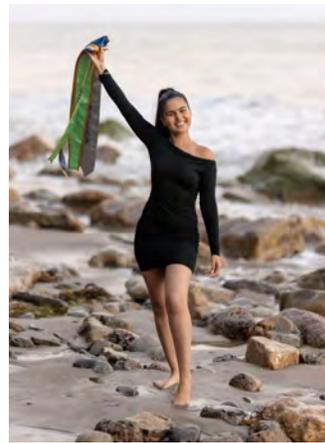
**ELVIRA LAGUNA**

Pacific Oaks College  
*Master's in Social Work*



**GABRIELA ELDREDGE**

Los Angeles Mission  
College  
*Associate's in Social Work*



**GURPREET KAUR**

California State University of  
Long Beach  
*Master's in Counseling and  
Psychology*



**JALONDA CARTER**

California State  
University of Northridge  
*Master's in Social Work*

# Class of 2025



**JESSICA MARTINEZ**

Cerritos College  
*Certification in Esthetician*



**JULISA MERWIN**

California State University of Fullerton  
*Bachelor's of Science in Nursing*



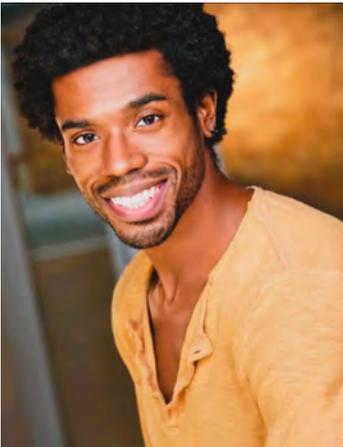
**LUISA FLORES**

Pasadena City College  
*Associate's in Kinesiology*



**MERCEDES JACKSON**

Mount San Antonio College  
*Associate's in Sociology and Psychology  
Emphasis in Social Work*



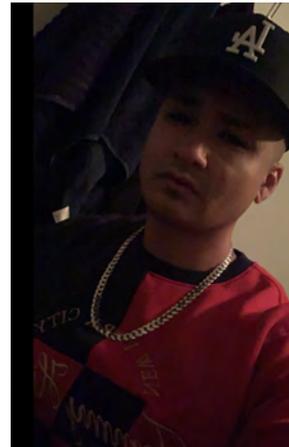
**MONRELLE WILSON**

University of California, Los Angeles  
*Bachelor's in Applied Linguistics*



**NATALY PEREZ**

East Los Angeles College  
*Associate's in Early Child Development*



**PETE GARCIA**

Cerritos College  
*Associate's in Commercial Music*



**POLLY MARTINEZ**

San Diego State University  
*Bachelor's in Communications*



**SHAQUETA WALKER**

Pasadena City College  
*Associate's in Psychology*



**TONY LOPEZ**

LiUNA Laborers local 300  
*Apprenticeship  
Construction Craft Laborer*

# Journey House Gets A **NEW ROOF**



Journey House is proud to share that we have a brand new roof, made possible the the generous support of The Gesner-Johnson Foundation. This project holds special meaning for Journey House, as it was something our founder, Tim, had long envisioned for the home. In the years prior, Tim led efforts to rebuild the fence on the property, and subsequently painted the exterior of the house. The roof project was unfinished business for Tim, and we are proud to share that the project is now complete. Our home is here to serve as a place of hope for foster youth for decades to come. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to All In One Restoration and Construction for their exceptional work in completing this project. This new roof stands as a lasting reflection of Tim's dedication and the misson he began.

## Board of Directors

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Kevin Sanchez- *Finance*  
Analia Meja Mesinas- *Secretary*  
Patrick Mayworm  
Carmen Liñero Lopez  
Laurie Parker  
Domonique Revis  
Jesse Aguiar- *Executive Director*

## Support Foster Youth

### Education

Textbook  
Transportation  
Meal Plans  
Laptops  
Tablets  
Registration Fees  
Application Fees  
Tools/Equipment  
Printer

Help contribute today through Paypal.

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Connect with us @journeyhouseorg



## Event Supporters

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