

# JH Journey House NEWS

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## FORMER FOSTER YOUTH STORIES...

When Journey House first began, it was the stories of individuals like Jacob that truly highlighted the impact that Journey House made on the lives of former foster youth. These personal journeys of resilience, growth, and achievement were the heartbeat of our community and the driving force behind everything we do.

In recent years, the internal leadership changes have made it challenging to capture and share personal stories as we did in recent history. However, the power of storytelling has always been a driving force behind Journey House's work—and it remains so today. As we move forward, we are recommitting ourselves to uplifting and sharing the voices of those whose lives embody the spirit and mission of Journey House. Jacob's story is just that, a shining example of what is possible when we invest in the lives of former foster youth.

## DEFINING HIS FUTURE: JACOB THOMPSON'S INSPIRING ROAD TO SUCCESS

I was born in Indiana, and from the moment I entered the world, many people would have said I never really had a chance. Before I was even born, I was already facing three generations of poverty, addiction, incarceration, and involvement in the foster care system. When I first entered foster care, I was always in trouble. I wasn't just in the foster care system—I was also involved in the juvenile justice system. However, as I grew older, it became increasingly clear to me that the only way to break the generational curse was to focus on education and pursue a highly skilled career.

I graduated from high school at 17 years old with a 3.9 GPA—one year early. At 18, I decided I had had enough and signed out of the extended foster care system. I was tired of social workers controlling my life. Despite battling cancer, experiencing homelessness, enduring two murders close to me, and suffering many personal losses, I earned my Associate's Degree in Legal Studies from Ivy Tech Community College in Fort Wayne, graduating Magna Cum Laude. That achievement allowed me to transfer to the University of Southern California on a full-tuition scholarship. Unfortunately, the struggles didn't end there. In 2020, COVID-19 hit, and everything fell apart. That's when I found Journey House.



**Jacob Thompson**  
Journey House Member

For me, Journey House provided a community that truly understood. In the academic world, there is often little understanding or compassion for people facing real, difficult circumstances—especially foster youth and so-called “delinquent children.”

In 2023, I graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Law. In 2025, I moved to the Bay Area to attend law school at Santa Clara University on a \$135,000 merit scholarship.

My future goals and dreams are to start my own brokerage and to litigate cases involving crimes against children as a prosecutor, land use disputes, or intellectual property litigation. Regardless of where my career takes me, I am deeply grateful for Journey House, the opportunities I've been given, and—most importantly—the people who helped lift me up when I was in a very dark place. Many of the people who should have been there for me weren't, but the staff at Journey House and others believed in me when I didn't even believe in myself. My journey to law school would not have been possible without them.

----Jacob Thompson

# Sisterhood

The Sisterhood Program at Journey House is more than just a group—it's a thriving community where women come together to build lasting friendships, share their stories, and find strength in one another. Designed as a safe and supportive space, Sisterhood encourages personal growth, empowerment, and connection. Under the new leadership of Kim Ruiz, Journey House's Administrative Assistant, the program continues to flourish as a family and a movement—where every woman is seen, heard, and valued. Through shared experiences and genuine support, the Sisterhood reminds each member that their journey matters and that, together, their voices carry greater power.



**Kim Ruiz**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## 2025 SISTERHOOD HALLOWEEN GATHERING




In October, we hosted our Sisterhood Halloween Party, which was a tremendous success! About fifteen ladies joined us for the gathering, along with their children—each one dressed in fun and creative costumes. Together, we carved and painted pumpkins, shared laughter, and built meaningful connections.

In addition to the festivities, we took time to engage in heartfelt conversations about important topics such as Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness, both of which are recognized in October. The event beautifully blended fun and purpose—creating space for community, creativity, and powerful dialogue. We are grateful to the San Marino Woman's Club for their generous support of our Sisterhood community. Their generosity provided meals for the event helping us create a warm and supportive environment for the women in our program.

# GIVING TUESDAY

*There are many ways to give to Journey House and to support the hundreds of young adults leaving the foster care system that need our advocacy. Your kindness will help us build a community where all former foster youth have access to the services they need to thrive.*




Jacob's success, and the success of every student at Journey House, is the result of our generous donors who invest in the lives of former foster youth. As the year comes to an end and the holidays approach, our Giving Tuesday campaign is focused on empowering more stories like Jacobs. All foster youth have the capacity to achieve wonderful things in life when provided with adequate support systems. Your contributions are the support that allow foster youth an opportunity to build stability in their lives and rewrite their future.



### **How Your Donation Makes a Difference:**

- A gift of \$25 will provide a meal for students during the holidays
- A gift of \$50 will provide gift cards that will be distributed at our Christmas event
- A gift of \$100 will support a student with supplies, textbooks, or application fee



Help us spread the word by sharing our campaign on your social media! Use the hashtag **#GivingTuesday** and tag us on Facebook @Journey House, or on Instagram @Journeyhouseorg. You can also support our work by using the QR code below to make a contribution directly our website. Thank you for your continued support. We are honored to have you as part of our community.



## New JH Board Member



**Krisianna Bock**  
**Board Member**

Sr. Vice President/Principal  
HKS Architects, Inc

Krisianna Bock is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and two-time recipient of the ACHE Senior-Level Regents Award in 2018 and 2024 in Southern California. With 25+ years of healthcare experience, she is committed to furthering an organization's vision to enhance the communities it serves through outstanding facilities. Combining a background in public health and a passion for healthcare design, she believes that healthcare buildings can integrate exceptional functionality, sustainability, and aesthetics. She volunteers in a variety of organizations including the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, ACHE of SoCal, Women in Health Administration of SoCal (WHA), US Green Building Council of California (USGBC-CA), and Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo (HFSE).

## Board of Directors

Fred Wong, Esq.- *President*

Kevin Sanchez- *Finance*

Patrick Mayworm

Carmen Liñero Lopez

Laurie Parker

Domonique Revis

Ellen Considine

Krisianna Bock

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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