



Celebrating "Beyond Foster Care"

On November 5th, the Brookside Golf Club was buzzing with excitement as Journey House hosted a dinner to raise funds for its new program - Beyond Foster Care. The guests came to celebrate the progress and success of more than 120 former foster youth who are currently pursuing college degrees or career opportunities. This new undertaking was made possible from a grant from the Petersen Foundation. This program extension is staffed by former foster youth whose mission is to advocate: 1) for better financial resources after the age of 21; 2) for a reasonable change in state funding for higher education; 3) for better preparation for independent living in a safe environment after foster care; and 4) for a platform where emancipated foster youth can speak to civic groups, conferences and colleges about the issues foster youth face after emancipation.

Board members and guests had the opportunity to mingle and dine with program participants. The evening's emcee, Dameon, or commonly known as "D," is a Journey House

alum, former staffer, and recently wrote a screenplay about his experience living on the street and in foster care. Domonique, Gabe, and Lucero also shared their experiences in foster care and how Journey House has helped them to accomplish their goals. The guest speaker, Assembly member Patty Lopez, shared her concerns and interest in the lives of former foster youth and what legislative goals she is pursuing in Sacramento. Actress and singer Monica-Crystal was the keynote speaker sharing her story of growing up in a broken home and overcoming adversity to pursue her dream of becoming a professional entertainer.

MC "D" and Monica-Crystal surprised the audience with an impromptu duet performance of a song written by "D" called "Trials and Tribulations." The evening was a wonderful acknowledgement and celebration of how Journey House continues to make a difference in the lives of young people beyond foster care.



Thanksgiving 2015

Some of our college students requested a Thanksgiving meal which we gladly provided with the help of the following businesses who donated food: Coco's, Corner Bakery, Foothill Unity Center, Mijares Mexican Restaurant, Mimi's Cafe, and Starbucks.

The following are excerpts from articles by LaQue



Destiny

divorced when she was 10. She lived with her mother and grandparents until placed in kin-gap foster care right before her 16th birthday, because school officials had grown suspicious after seeing signs of physical abuse.

Destiny loved school and graduated high school with a 4.0 and at the age of 18. She has been living on her own ever since emancipating from the foster care system. She is currently attending Pasadena City College. Her goal is to become a linguistic court translator with aspirations of working at the United Nations. She already has a head start as a multi-lingual person of Vietnamese and Chinese descent who speaks

six languages (English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese and a dialect of Cambodian).

Destiny never imagined that she would be counted among the foster youth who would come knocking to request assistance after aging-out of the foster care system. She shared that she loves to help others, but it is hard for her to ask for help. But after meeting Journey House staff and getting information about the support and referrals they have for housing and educational support, she expresses a sentiment that is typical among former foster youth who seek help, "I didn't know this place existed. It feels like home, it's so welcoming."

Like thousands of former foster youth in California, Destiny has the full responsibility for her shelter, food and other necessities of life at the young age of 20. For her, there is no family to go to for support, financially or otherwise. Her parents



Jessie

I went back to live with my mother." He was soon re-placed in foster care due to his mother's drug addiction.

At age 14, Jessie had started developing an interest in art and applied his adolescent creativity to tagging. Certainly a nuisance to property owners, his unsanctioned "public art" became his outlet and fortunately his love for art outweighed the lure of joining a gang.

When he first came to Journey House at 19, Jessie was still tagging but he was encouraged to focus his talents in a legal and more constructive manner. Journey House supported his interests by purchasing art supplies and canvases. Now Jessie

has developed a reputation for beautiful abstract paintings and has had his work in several art exhibits. One can be seen from the Metro Gold Line near the Highland Park Station.

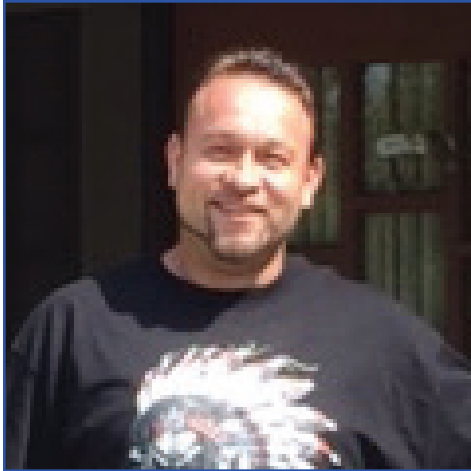
Like all creative people, he would love to make his livelihood with his talents, stating, "I would like to sell some of my art." Yet he is the first to realize that he has to make a living and is currently attending LA Trade Tech for welding, with plans to join the Iron Workers Union. Jessie says that he will always be able to go back to Journey House because he can always count on support and encouragement whenever he needs it, beyond foster care.

Jessie Castillo is now 27 years old and he credits Journey House with helping him transition into life as an adult after spending years in the foster care system. He was first placed into foster care at age five and says, "I was bounced around from place to place until I was eight when



Journey House

Jaime Shamblee featured in the Mountain View News



Jaime

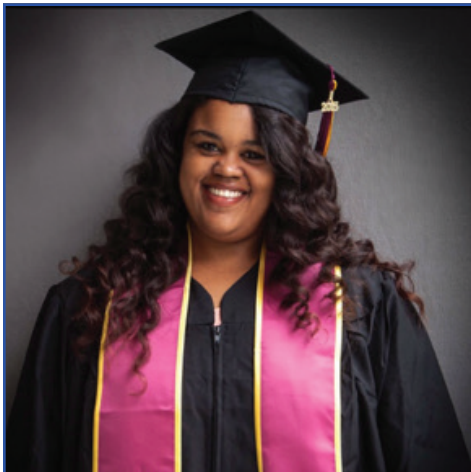
At 14 Jaime had found a place that felt safe, a place where he felt like he finally belonged. "Journey House helped me to grow up and become a man," says Jaime. He stated that he just wanted to learn to be independent, to graduate high school and get into college. He says, "No one else was going to give me that chance."

Jaime is among the alumni of the Journey House residential program, and maintains a close friendship with his old roommate to this day. When asked why he feels it is important to maintain a connection with the agency, he shares, "Journey House is still a support system, they are like my backbone. Tim is just

like a father to me and I've always kept that relationship with him." He says that he calls Journey House for advice about many things, including how to go about buying a house.

Journey House is able to demonstrate how seemingly small, yet consistent assistance and support can have life-changing, life long impact. Like any other family, the agency serves as the homestead where adult Journey House "kids" return to simply check-in or to get guidance about work, relationships, money or resources they might need at the moment. Clearly the relationships established at Journey House extend well beyond foster care.

Jaime is proud to embrace his role as a husband and father of two children, ages four and one. At age 13, he was well on his way of becoming a statistic within the criminal justice system after being convicted of assault and battery.



Donjaleigh

Program at age 18 after leaving the foster care system in the hopes of saving money and having a safe place to live. However, the reality of how funding for former foster youth works tragically hit Donjaleigh on her 24 birthday. On her birthday, she was evicted from the housing program, because the agency which operates the housing program stops receiving state funding when a client turns 24. A staff member knocked on her door, asked for her keys and told her that she had five minutes to gather her belongings. It didn't matter that she didn't have anywhere to go. They were aware that she had recently graduated, was working part-time and that she had been actively looking for full-time employment. "Are you kidding me, I just graduated with my B.A. and I'm about to be homeless?" she thought. Every former foster youth understands 24 as the milestone of being forever and unceremoniously cut-off from further financial assistance or support.

That's when she found Journey House. "I am so grateful that I found Journey House," says Donjaleigh. Within a week of meeting them, things began to fall into place. She had just been offered a full-time position working with foster youth on probation and was approved for an apartment. With financial assistance from Journey House, she was able to come up with the balance of funds needed to sign her rental agreement. Journey House was also able to provide her with a bed, mattress, microwave, dishes, lamps, and other furnishings that had been donated.

Donjaleigh is now a part of the Journey House family, just one of the agency's adult "kids" who needed a helping hand, beyond foster care. She has plans to pursue a Masters in Social Work and states, "I want to be a social worker so that I can be sure that young people in the system have someone who really cares about what happens to them."

Donjaleigh recently graduated from California State University Dominguez Hills with a B.A. in Sociology. An amazing accomplishment considering this former foster youth has basically had to figure out how to navigate life on her own since she exited the foster care system at age 18. Donjaleigh was 15 when her mother died, and with a father who was in and out of prison, she was placed into foster care.

She moved into a government funded Transitional Housing

ANNOUNCING!

The Journey House Former Foster Youth Endowment Fund

For the past 35 years, the team at Journey House has been committed to providing former foster youth with the counseling and financial assistance they need to achieve their dream of completing a college education. Journey House is unique in that it serves 60-75 former foster care youth each year, regardless of age, and helps them to navigate the challenges of transitioning into adulthood to become independent and self-sufficient.

With the growing number of kids in the foster care system, the need for the services provided by Journey House is more important than ever. The founder of Journey House, along with the Board of Directors, wanted to find a way to ensure a source of support for future decades.

To deliver on that goal, Journey House has set up an Endowment Fund to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization. The Endowment is structured so the principle amount grows with inflation after annual distributions are made to support the organization. That will ensure the funds are available for years to come.

The Endowment Fund was initially set up earlier this year, thanks to donations from several of our supporters, including Daniel and Shirley Mayworm, and Douglas and Barbara Stephen. Significant additional funding is needed to deliver on the long-term goal of helping former foster youth obtain the college education or vocational training they need to succeed in life.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Journey House Endowment fund, please send your cash gift, payable to Journey House, with 'Endowment' written on the subject line. Your donation will then be sent to the Pasadena Community Foundation who manages the fund. The gifts are fully tax deductible.

You can also make donations by giving stock, insurance policies or real property by contacting the Executive Director at 626-798-9478 or email at info@jhpasadena.org

If you would like more information, please visit our website at <http://www.JourneyHouseYouth.org>

The Federal tax ID # for Journey House: 95-3838636



Board of Directors

From left to right: Tim Mayworm - Executive Director,
Ben Sarafi - Secretary, Kevin Sanchez, Venise Williams - Finance,
Fred Wong, Esq. - President, Byung Jung Jhung, Patrick Mayworm.
(Not Pictured: Andrew Cooper, Mark Rice, Jorge Camarena - Program Director).

Mission Statement

Journey House is a vital established in 1983 whose sole purpose is to assist emancipated foster youth to meet their initial independent living needs.



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