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and granters for their 2011 donation.*

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 Dr. Ruben Zacarias – Alhambra

Thank you

Contact Information



Journey House, Inc.
 1232 N. Los Robles Ave.
 Pasadena, CA 91104
 (626)798-9478
 Tax ID# 95-3838636

www.jhpasadena.org
 info@jhpasadena.org

Board of Directors

Fred Wong, Esq. - President
 Kevin Sanchez - Finance
 Ben Sarafi - Secretary
 Andrew Cooper
 Patrick Mayworm
 Kelly Shearer
 Will Walls
 Tim Mayworm - Executive Director
 Jorge Camarena - Program Director

Mission Statement

Journey House is a vital, multi-service non-profit organization established in 1983 whose sole purpose is to assist emancipated foster youth over eighteen years of age to meet their initial independent living needs, to access adequate and appropriate housing, education, and employment, and to build their self-esteem through personalized attention and positive outreach services.

**Jericho Road Helps Journey
House with Volunteers**

Jericho Road Project Pasadena is the first west coast offshoot of the successful Jericho Road Project, which originated seven years ago on the east coast. Jericho Road Project Pasadena was spearheaded by members of Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church of Pasadena. The Jericho Road Project bridges communities by matching the professional talents of volunteers with the needs of community-based nonprofit organizations and businesses to promote community development, strengthen social services, and enrich the lives of volunteers. Jericho Road opened the Pasadena affiliate in May 2010. Melanie Goodyear, the Program Director, has placed volunteers with various non profits around Pasadena, including graphic designer Gillian Symonds and writer Jack Wills at Journey House.



*Journey
House*

“Forever Changed”

**NEWS
NEWS**

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Spring 2011

**Newly Elected
President of the Board
Fred Wong**

I was introduced to Journey House when Executive Director, Tim, came to speak at the Alhambra Rotary Club in the early 90’s. At that time, Journey House was still dedicated to serving 6 live-in boys at a time with Tim leading the pack. I was always eager to receive Journey House’s quarterly newsletter. Through the newsletters, I shared the ups and downs of Journey House. It was always welcoming to learn that one of the boys has graduated from college. And it was sad to hear when promising kids dropped out. Although my contact with Journey House was minimal over the years, I clearly remember the sense of loss when I read that one of our “near-success” was gunned down because he could not

resist visiting his old neighborhood.

I truly believe in what Journey House has been striving to achieve over the years. Although our clientele has changed (we now serve about 75 young men and women), I know that our mission has not. With the weak economy and the decrease in funding caused by it, I am certain that all of us appreciate the challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to working with Tim, our Board and all of you to meet the challenges that await us.

About Fred Wong: Fred moved here from Taiwan during his teens. He obtained this BS in Finance from CSULA and JD from USC Law Center. Fred has been practicing business and real estate law in the San Gabriel Valley since 1986. His firm, Wong & Mak, is located in Pasadena. Fred resides with his wife, Betty, in Alhambra. His hobbies are traveling, skiing and golf.



**Danny’s New Car
(In His Own Words)**

I first came to Journey House in 2003 - a bullheaded manipulative young man. Now its 2011 and I’m married to my girlfriend of 6 years with two beautiful little girls. I have a steady job and a nice apartment in Highland Park. It hasn’t always been this good and pops “Tim” has been there for me every step of the way (good and bad) never turning his back on me or giving up. He could see right past my outer shell to the good in me and I’m grateful that someone took the time to give me hope and believe in me when nobody else did. I am truly blest to have such an inspiring man in my life. Tim, being aware of my situation, called one recent day informing me that he would like to help me out with a car – a car that was donated to him. I was surprised and also very excited that I was going to finally own a car. I needed a car to get to work and transport my daughters back and forth to the baby sitter and to take care of everyday things! Wow! The feeling I got after I got off the phone with him was indescribable,



Continue on Page 2 (Danny’s Car)

**One Girl’s Experience in
Foster Care**

At the age of two I was taken away from my mother and forced to live with my aunt along with my five brothers and sisters. We lived in Los Angeles County. We were given a tutor, and had monthly visits from a Social Worker. But once we moved to the San Bernardino County that changed. We lived in two story, 6 bedroom, brand new house. My aunt was not employed, but living off the State money given to her to care for us. We no longer were provided a tutor and the Social Worker stopped coming out for visits. Instead she made monthly phone calls to see how we were all doing. At the time I was 11 years old. In a few years we lost all contact with our social worker.

Continue on Page 2 (One Girl)

(Danny's Car) Continued from page 1

I want to say it felt like I hit the lottery, I've never owned a car before! After the initial shock wore off, I was in a state of emotional happiness and gratefulness that there is someone out there that really does genuinely care about me. I got insurance and a driver's license I drive the car every day and it feels so good to own a car and legally be driving it. I would like to express my deep appreciation to Journey House and all the people that support this great organization. This would not have been possible without you thanks -Daniel Torres

About Daniel:

Daniel has always been a promising young man, with great communication skills and a large amount of untapped intelligence. Unfortunately, his history of making poor decisions, drug use and criminal activity has distracted from his progress in education and job advancement. Daniel has turned his life around in remarkable ways. Now he is interested in knowing how to do things the right (legal) way. So far, he is very pleased in seeing the benefits of doing things correctly. When the car was donated to Journey House, Daniel was the first person we deemed ready for a reward for his accomplishments and behavioral change. It was a pleasure helping Daniel obtain his driver's license, register the car in his name, and obtain insurance. Of course, Daniel did receive the car free of charge. He has to pay a little from his salary each month for the help JH has given him. A free gift is not nearly as appreciated as something you work hard for.

About the Car Donor

Larry and Elaine Agney of North Hollywood have been donors of Journey House for over twenty years. Elaine was a member of the Mother Cabrini Mother's Club - mothers of Mother Cabrini High School students. The club was instrumental in helping decorate Journey House for the Christmas holidays when Journey House first opened and they started a tradition of bring wrapped Christmas gifts for the residents. Many of the club membership are still active donors, even though many have moved out of the San Fernando Valley. Larry and Elaine decided to "give up" one their cars and graciously donated it to Journey House for the sole purpose of helping one of our clients. We thank Elaine and Larry (and all their friends) for their years of generous giving to Journey House and the young men and women benefiting from their kindness.

Please consider donating a vehicle to us just like Larry and Elaine. Your unwanted vehicle can be a means of helping former foster youth drive toward success.



The new Chief of Police visits with some of Journey House program participants at our Open House.



Daniel enjoying his new car

WHAT'S GOING ON

- **Crystal** - elected president of "Scholars Transitioning and Realizing Success" (STARS) Club at Pasadena City College.
- **Cristian** - moved into his own apartment and started his first full-time job.
- **Judeana** - completed all Cal State University applications to transfer for Fall 2011 semester.
- **Gabrielle** - delivered a healthy baby boy.
- **Connie** - registered to take the California Pharmacy Technician Exam.
- **Jaime** - became a U.S. citizen.
- **Rey** - continues to work as a grip on various T.V. shows

Meet more of our program participants on YouTube Channel: **JHPasadena**

Holiday Joys Holiday Joys Holiday Joys

Holidays can often be a very lonely time of the year, especially for people from dysfunctional families. Journey House was able to provide our usual holiday festivities for the young people who had nowhere else to go to celebrate a holiday meal and the holiday spirit of togetherness. We are grateful to all are benefactors, but especially the following individuals, for helping us make to memorial holiday season:

Thanksgiving Food

Donors

- Pho Show Restaurant - CulverCity
- Juan Lara - Pasadena
- Irene and Brian Miller - Pasadena
- Carmen Apodaca - Altadena
- Sarah Shoaib - San Gabriel
- Doug and Barbara Stephen - Huntington Beach
- ServeLA volunteers - Pasadena
- YWCA- Pasadena

Christmas

Food and Gift Donors

- Pho Show Restaurant - CulverCity
- Carmen Apodaca - Altadena
- Knights of Columbus - Monrovia
- Bobbi Hart & Friends - Thousand Oaks
- Joanne Gilbert & Friends - Calabasas

Thank you all very much



(One Girl) continued from page 1

At age 16, my living condition became worse. At this age, young girls need proper hygiene care, doctor and dentist visits, food, and motherly advice; which I did not get from living with my aunt. I was so unhappy I decided to file with the court to be emancipated at 16 years old. I wrote a letter explaining why I no longer wanted to live with my aunt. In the letter to the court, I mentioned I was not getting the proper care. I never went to the dentist or saw a doctor since I was a child, and the only time I saw a doctor was when I needed to go to the emergency room. My aunt was always gone and left us alone. We never knew where she was or when she was coming back. There was no food in the house, but Ramen Noodles. Things were never replaced like lotion, shampoo, or toothpaste.

To my surprise, a copy of the letter I wrote to my social worker was given to my aunt. She was also told that she would be getting a visit from the state on a certain date. When that day came, I went to school and once I got home my aunt was there and she did some shopping. The pantry was all of a sudden stocked with food; there was lotion, shampoo, and toothpaste. My room was even cleaned. Once the state worker showed up, all six of us kids sat in the living room with my aunt. Of course, I didn't want to talk because of the position I was put in. I couldn't say anything I really wanted to because my aunt was in the same room. A few weeks later my request for emancipation was denied. I remained living there for the next two

years. Things got even worse. When my brothers turned 18, my aunt stopped receiving checks from the State, so she asked them to leave or pay a ridiculous amount of rent when they had no income or jobs. We then moved to a smaller 4 bedroom house. School was never important to my aunt. She didn't care if we went, or didn't, whether our homework was done, or how we were doing in our classes. I fell behind and graduated a year late. Only three out of us 6 children graduated from high school. As soon as I graduated from high school I was out because my aunt was no longer getting State payment for me. Just out of high school, no money, no job, no means of transportation, not even any prior skills or training to get a job. I was lost. Until, I came to Pasadena to live with my older sister. I was on my own now, no one to tell me what to do or where to go. I got myself enrolled in school at Pasadena City College. Somehow I found the County's Independent Living Program in West Los Angeles. They guided me to the Casey Family Program in Pasadena. It was there that I took Life Skill courses and where I was introduced to Jorge from Journey House. Now I'm 20 years old, working and attending school, thanks to Jorge's help, and doing better than I ever have.



Editor's note: The writer wishes to remain anonymous