



*Journey  
House*

*Forever Changed*

**NEWS**

*A Non-Profit Benefit Corporation Since 1983*

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Winter 2017



*Merry Chirstmas and Happy New Year  
from all of us at Journey House!*



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## **A Journey Less Traveled**

*By Dameon*

Growing up in the foster care system is like being wrongfully accused of a crime and thrown into solitary confinement for your entire childhood. The stigma and mental trauma travels with you as you bounce between placements, struggling to adjust to your new environment. Ostracized, and fighting every day for a chance to prove that you're just as worthy as a human being as any other, albeit that fight can be for a bed, a meal, or even phone rights. Before long, the memories of abuse, neglect and survival suppress your hopes and dreams, following you like dark clouds. In some cases, the painful memories are so vividly overwhelming, and enhanced by psychotropic medication, that they interrupt daily routine, or force the

victim to create alternate realities in search of the ever-elusive love and acceptance. Inevitably, the trauma leads down a much darker path, an unfortunate path that leads to homelessness, prison, drugs, or many other countless pitfalls that await your arrival with open arms. In the words of Bill Withers, "Ain't No Sunshine."

Yet, despite all of the horrific accounts, the other side of a foster youth's story is that we thrive. The statistics and profiteers will have you believe that we are incorrigible, ignoring any level of success achieved on a daily basis. While most of our tenure in foster care is geared towards conforming to society's standards of success and approval, interestingly enough,

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foster youth are succeeding beyond any expectations today by thinking “outside the box.” Other than a hollow recognition during the month of May, foster youth (current and former) are largely used for dramatic beats in Hollywood films and TV shows. Forget the fact that former foster youth are working as professionals (a profession that has largely been regarded as the world’s hardest fraternity to pledge into) on these projects, and fighting to shed light and bring change in creative ways. Ignore the fact that former foster youth are graduating college at an increasing rate, and creating their own businesses. Simply put, THRIVING.



While there are countless other success stories of foster youth thriving, allow me to share my story. Most of you will know me as “D.” My history with Journey House spans over 25 years: as a resident, then staff member, to finally success story. And if you’re keeping score, there is no doubt that my failures (whether professionally, creatively or personally) have outweighed my successes. However, I’ve never measured success by the accomplishments, but by the journey and resiliency it takes to overcome any obstacle or failure. When your biological father tells you that you will be dead or in jail by the time you’re 18, you only have two options: Live up to it, or like myself, fight, scratch and crawl through every challenge and obstacle to prove him wrong. As demoralizing as my father’s sentiment proved to be, I am eternally grateful for the endearing love and support that stemmed from my connection to Journey House to overcome and thrive beyond that proclamation. The list is far too long to get into, but most importantly, Pop’s (Tim) involvement in my life has continuously kept me on course. We’ve butted heads so many times, but in the end, if I need him, he’s there. Hawaiian shirt and all,

he’s ready to guide, support and advise me through any obstacle. Our bond runs deep.

So, when I was awarded LAUSD’s Employee of the Year award this past May, I could feel the pride that beamed from the “ol’ man.” It was pure. The kind of pride that only a father could have for his son, and it was an amazing feeling. If you don’t measure that as success then I feel sorrow for you as a human being.

Now, I didn’t get a raise or a promotion, but the humble recognition from the second largest school district in the nation cements my legacy of continuously striving to create

a positive impact on all children’s lives. In the classroom, or in my own home, it is my personal goal to teach and guide children towards the best option for their success. That’s the most influential impression that Pops left with me: Be selfless and provide the tools; the rest is up to them. Opportunity and support are key factors to my success. I couldn’t do what I do at my school without my wife, Gaby, and my children, Deana and DJ, who have been a constant source of encouragement and my greatest success to date. They allow me to dive deep into my work and create useful tools to help students achieve and thrive. I couldn’t do what I do without them.

My story is far from over, and the resiliency and determination that resides within me will always push me to thrive. Motivational speaker, Les Brown, once said, “If you reach for the moon, eventually you’ll reach the stars,” and my journey in life is filled with the brightest stars, so I won’t stop striving until I put a few dents in that moon. The achievement will surely be rewarding, but that only means that children are succeeding right along with me, and that is quite a dream to behold. If we disregard labels that are put onto our children (or anybody, for that matter), we can truly provide the nurturing and opportunities necessary for their success, and believe it or not, that’s all anybody really needs in their life: The tools to THRIVE.



# Thrift Store Now Open

Journey House recently opened a Thrift Store at the Historic Orange Grove Shopping Center in Pasadena. It has been a long-time plan for Journey House to be able to provide jobs

for former foster youth as well as raise money to continue to help youth attending school. Journey House program participants assist customers, sort merchandise, stock shelves, and work as cashiers. They are learning and practicing professional socialization skills that are critical for them to have to be successful in any career.

In addition to job training, Journey House program participants now have a place to “shop” for free for their furniture, clothes, and other necessities, without having to worry about how to pay for them.

Journey House Thrift Store is filled with donated items from supporters like you. We accept antiques, usable household items, clean furniture, working appliances, gently worn clothes, and much much more.

Donations are welcomed at the store or can be picked up, at your convenience. Journey House Thrift Store is located at 453 East Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, 91104 and is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 7pm. Call us if you have any questions. 626-298-6377. We look forward to seeing you!



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## ***Beyond Foster Care UPDATE 2017***

### ***The first educational policy success for Journey House***

On October 20, 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law AB 1567 (sponsored by Assemblyman Chris Holden), “The Higher Education Outreach and Assistance Act for Foster Youth.” This new education policy, advocated by our students in Sacramento, will give former foster youth enrolled in California community colleges and state universities an automatic access to on-campus support programs. Over 15 Journey House students led the effort to pass this bill by joining strategy sessions, meeting with elected officials, and writing letters of support.

With over 15,000 former foster youth attending California Colleges and State Universities, this new law will greatly help them to succeed and ultimately to reach their educational goal: to obtain a college degree.



### ***Research update***

We started a research project (Beyond Foster Care: Needs Beyond the Age of 21) which is exploring the adult life outcomes of former foster youth between the ages of 22 and 35 years of age. Our goal is to gather 500 surveys. So far we have 320 surveys from young people throughout California. The study will produce a series of quarterly reports on what actually happens to foster youth after the age of 21. The first report will be released in the spring of 2018.

### ***Speakers Panel***

This fall Journey House students have been speaking at various colleges and universities; sharing their stories on what is going on with former foster youth who have aged out of foster care. Through the speakers panel, students have shared their experiences with future social workers and probation officers. Panel presentations have been given at many venues including USC, UCLA, LA Southwest, Cal State LA, Azusa Pacific University, and at the Obama Foundation's, My Brother's Keeper Alliance Conference in Long Beach which hosted state officials from 14 different states.

### ***Our newest staff member***

We recently hired David, a former resident of Journey House's group home, as our social media coordinator. He is responsible for maintaining all of our social media outlets and managing communications with our program participants.



## Journey House Endowment

Journey House is already planning for the future. The needs of young people aging out of the foster care system doesn't seem to be diminishing. To be better prepared to meet these future demands, Journey House has established an Endowment managed by the Pasadena Community Foundation. To help us meet the future needs of foster youth, will you consider contributing to our Endowment fund?

It is easy: Send a check to the address below with "Endowment" written on the subject line.

### LIFE CHANGING Donors (\$5000 and up)

Daniel and Shirley Mayworm

Douglas and Barbara Stephen

Fred and Betty Wong

### MEANINGFUL Donors (Below \$5000)

Joseph Blackman	Valerie Mayworm
Savina DeMarzo	Doris McGinley
Daniel and Alva Gluck	Martha Jo Morehouse
Bobbi Hart	James and Susan Noyes
Maurine Kornfeld	Robert and Darlene O'Leary
Debi and Scott Kroman	Mark Rice
John and Louisa Kushner	Ludina and El Sayed Sallam
Joanne Lara	Sara Shoaib
Joyce Locke Family Trust	Carole Viola

## JourneyHouseYouth.org



1232 N. Los Robles Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
[www.JourneyHouseYouth.org](http://www.JourneyHouseYouth.org)

### Board of Directors

Fred Wong, Esq. - President	Byung Jung Jhung
Mark Rice - Secretary	Patrick Mayworm
Kevin Sanchez	Mardi Arnold
Andrew Cooper	Avalon Economou

**Executive Director** - Tim Mayworm, MEd

**Program Director** - Jorge Camarena, MSW

### Mission Statement

Journey House supports former foster and probation youth to live fully independent, successful lives. Founded in 1983, Journey House provides emotional support and guidance, as well as financial aid to help them with the cost of attending college and vocational schools.

## Remembering a Remarkable Life

### R. Michael Lindsay

1935-1917



I met Mike Lindsay nearly 40 years ago when I was serving as Chaplain of Camp Afflerbaugh, a juvenile probation camp in La Verne. Mike was the Camp Director. I was also, at that time, on the faculty of La Salle High School in Pasadena. Together, Mike and I started a unique interagency sports program. It was a huge success between two diverse cultures: juvenile county probationers and middle class high school students. Mike showed extraordinary dedication and concern for the minors in his care. We both wanted to see some of his bright wards get an opportunity to receive a decent education; to have the chance to rise above their present circumstances. It was Mike who inspired me to pursue a means to achieve this goal. With his influence and encouragement, Journey House was created. The mission he envisioned to educate young troubled youth continues to this day. Thank you, Mike.

May you rest in Peace.

- *Tim*

### A welcome to new members of the board

Mardi Arnold first got involved with us when she asked some of our female students to participate in a fashion Show fundraiser for an organization ("Women Against Child Trafficking") that she is involved with. After meeting our young students, and understanding our mission, she asked if she could help raise money for these students. Because of her lively and dedicated personality, Jorge asked her to become a more active contributor to Journey House by joining the Board of Directors. Mardi, and her friends will be coordinating a Journey House Fundraising Committee.

Avalon Economou heard of us through a board leadership training program. When we met her and learned of her areas of expertise, we knew it was a perfect match. Avalon has helped us greatly to better structure our accounting system and our business/legal policies.

We welcome Mardi and Avalon