



*Journey House*

*presents*



# Summer Shorts

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## Beyond Foster Care: Our New Initiative with New Participants



A fun and goofy picture at our “meet and greet” social

### The Beyond Foster Care program will:

1. Re-establish a speaker’s panel of former foster youth to share their foster care experience at conferences, colleges, and civic groups.
2. Provide an opportunity for foster youth to advocate for change in the laws that limit financial assistance for education beyond 21 years old.
3. Create awareness through social media and provide a platform where foster youth can openly discuss issues that directly effect their transition from the foster care system to adulthood.

Over 130 youth have contacted Journey House

since March 2015. Most are over 21 and are no longer eligible for foster care funding even though they are enrolled in college. Journey House’s mandate is to assist these young scholars complete their education.

In July, we held a small “meet and greet” social for our students to meet each other and express their personal needs as they prepare for the Fall semester.

Special Thank you to



for providing lunch.



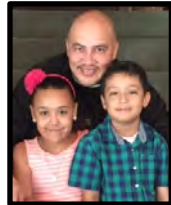
Gabby - Youth Advocacy Coordinator



### Why Journey House's "Beyond Foster Care" is important to Gabby:

"What Journey House does for emancipated foster youth is critical to their survival. It is so hard to be alone. It is so hard to deal with the emotional aspects of not having a parent fight or care for you. The pain in knowing that you have to navigate life on your own is hard. The most beautiful part of the brokenness I experienced was the healing that comes from conversations with caring supportive people, which allows a small window of a hope for the future. As a former foster youth, I have experienced firsthand what it's like to struggle for strength to get out of bed in the morning (assuming I had a bed), to wonder where the next meal would come

from, and live in fear that follows someone operating in survival mode. Through these incredibly painful experiences, I've recognized that the majority of my personal healing has been made possible by the realization that I am never alone. Beyond Foster Care is near to my heart because it offers room at the table for each of us to share our stories, our traumas, our joys, our victories, and to celebrate the ways we can unite to ultimately pave a smoother road for foster youth who will come after us. The most exciting aspect of Beyond Foster Care is its limitless capacity to unite a population that seems to disappear after their 18th birthday. This campaign offers former foster youth the ability to use a common platform for change, to enlighten the general public on what happens beyond foster care."



Summer 2015 Meet and Greet



## BACK TO SCHOOL

### Azusa Pacific University

Gabby H. - Junior

### Cal Baptist University

Olivia C. - Senior

### Chaffey College

Martika O. - Sophomore

### CSU Los Angeles

Genesis H. - Junior

Judeana V. - 2nd Yr. Grad.

### CSU Northridge

Ebony P. - Junior

### El Camino College

Jorge A. - Sophomore

### L.A. Trade Tech.

Jessie C. - Sophomore

### Mt. San Antonio College

Michelle P. - Sophomore

### Pacific Oaks College

Sky R. - Freshman

### Pasadena City College

Ebony S. - Sophomore

Pamela C. - Sophomore

Jesse A. - Sophomore

Daniel T. - Freshman

### Santa Monica College

Allyson R. - Freshman

Julio Q. - Sophomore

### Southwest College

Dejane C. - Sophomore

### St. Mary's College

Selenia - Senior

### Syracuse University

Miani G. - Senior

### UCLA

Cassandra R. - Senior

Laura Y. - Junior

Maribel T. - Sophomore

Noel B. - Senior

Regina B. - Senior

Terra S. - Senior

### University of La Verne

Amanda M. 1st Yr. Grad.

Christopher B. - Sophomore

Chris S. - Senior

### University of San Francisco

Cristal H. - 2nd Yr. Law

### USC

Carmen N. - Junior

Demontea T. - Freshman

Lucero N. - Senior

Michael B. - 1st Yr. Grad.

Monerelle W. - 1st Yr. Grad.

Zarkhi P. - Freshman

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