

# JH Journey House NEWS

1232 N. LOS ROBLES • PASADENA, CA 91104 • (626)798-9478 • INFO@JOURNEYHOUSEYOUTH.ORG

## CELEBRATING 18 GRADUATES AS THE CLASS OF 2024

Congratulations to Journey House's graduating class of 2024! This year we celebrated 18 graduates at Brookside near the Pasadena Rose Bowl. We were delighted to see many familiar faces and to welcome the new supporters who were learning about Journey House for the first time. Some students are transferring from community college to four year universities, others are moving-on to graduate school, and some graduates are busy in their fields launching their careers. We are immensely proud of each graduate for believing in themselves and accomplishing this major life milestone. The reality that former foster youth face in accessing education is daunting; many battled constantly to maintain stable housing, others dealt with food insecurity, and some students were juggling class-work while maintaining full-time employment as single parents. We at Journey House take great pride in being the family for all of our 300+ program participants as we support them throughout their life journey's. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our village of supporters who fuel this important work - the wellbeing of our community is a collective effort and together we continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of former foster youth.



## JESSE AGUIAR NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As many of you are aware, our founder Tim Mayworm was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January 2023. Given Tim's circumstances, he has made the decision to officially retire from Journey House as of August 1st, 2024. Simultaneously, Jorge Camarena has stepped down as program director to move on to the next chapter of his career as of July 3rd, 2024. We understand that the news may generate mixed feelings, especially for the foster youth in our programs, but we want to assure our entire Journey House community that our operations will continue as usual. Tim has been at the helm of the organization for 41 years, and Jorge served JH for over 20 years. They are pillars of the organization who will be missed tremendously. We owe them a lifetime of gratitude for their years of service to our foster youth. We want to communicate as clearly as possible that their transitions will not have any negative impact on the stability of our mission, our programs, our culture, or our philosophy. Journey House has experienced major growth in recent years and we expect to stay on course with a similar trajectory in the near future.



That being said, I am honored to share that as of August 1st, 2024, I am the new Executive Director of Journey House. I am deeply rooted to this organization's history as I was a resident of the Journey House group home in 2007. I returned to work for JH in 2015 as a youth advocate leading the development of Beyond Foster Care, Journey House's advocacy program leading foster care reform efforts in California. My role has shifted in recent years to work closely with Tim on all of the major executive duties such as fundraising, public relations, programs development, management, and expansion, board relations, major partnerships, and most importantly, creating a thriving foster youth community through our authentic community engagement strategies. Some of the major accomplishments during my time have been to expand our income from \$300,000 in 2015, to roughly \$730,000 in 2023, with projections to surpass that number in 2024! It is a great honor for me to continue the legacy that both Jorge and Tim have created through JH. If there is one thing that Tim always made clear to me it is that our students always come first. This is the legacy that will propel us forward into the future.

Lastly, I want to extend an invitation to our supporters to reach out to us. While we work tirelessly to keep our doors open, we cannot do this alone and will need all the help we can get. This is a great time for our community to double down your commitments to ensure the future is firm and steady. We have projects in the works and we are excited to showcase the amazing achievements of our former foster youth!

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!



**Audrielle Tackett**  
USC  
Master's of  
Communication  
Management



**Jonathan Tirado**  
CSU Northridge  
Bachelor's of Television  
Production



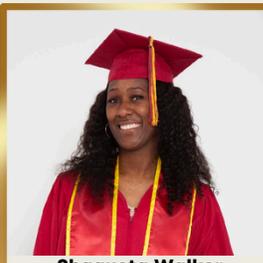
**Junely Merwin**  
CSU Fullerton  
Master's of Higher  
Education



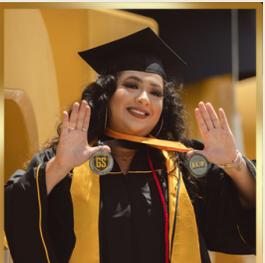
**Robert Legons**  
Paul Quinn University  
Bachelor of  
Psychology



**Jasmine Brown**  
CSU Dominguez Hills  
Bachelor's of Psychology



**Shaqueta Walker**  
Pasadena City College  
Associates Degree in Social  
and Behavioral Science,  
Associates Degree in Business,  
Entrepreneurship Certification,  
Marketing Certification



**Roberta Frame**  
CSU Long Beach  
Bachelor's of Public  
Relations



**Jesse Aguiar**  
CSU Long Beach  
Bachelor's of Political  
Science



**Quanesha Brown**  
CSU Dominguez  
Hills  
Bachelor's of  
Sociology



**Dejane Cooper**  
West LA College  
Associate in Child  
Development



**Allyson  
Rodriguez**  
National University  
Master's in Applied  
Behavior Analysis



**Daniel Bisuano**  
LA Trade Technical  
Community College  
Associate in English



**Jalonda Carter**  
CSU Northridge  
Bachelor's of Social  
Work

Not pictured:

**Jerrika Thomas**  
UCLA  
Master's of Education

**Angie Araujo**  
CSU Pomona  
Bachelor's of Biology and minor  
in Psychology

**Emma Espinoza**  
CSU Los Angeles  
Master's of Social Work

**Destiny Redondo**  
Cerritos City College  
Paralegal Certification

**Maria Peralta**  
Community Based Education College  
Associate in Applied Sciences

## New JH Staff



**Kim Ruiz**

*Administrative Assistant*

### Board of Directors

Fred Wong, Esq.- President

Kevin Sanchez- Finance

Analicia Mejia Mesinas- Secretary

Patrick Mayworm

Carmen Liñero-Lopez

Laurie Parker

Domonique Revis

**Executive Director-** Jesse Aguiar

### Support Foster Youth Education

- Textbook
- Transportation
- Meal Plans
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Registration Fees
- Application Fees
- Tools/Equipment
- Printer

Help contribute today through Venmo and Paypal.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=3A7SJGCNY83G4](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=3A7SJGCNY83G4)

## Event Supporters

Carol Biondi

Bruce Christensen

Carol Fishburn

Marlane Forsberg

Grace Fung

Jeffrey Gutstadt

Tom Heding

Linda Heding

Howard Group

Berry Mayworm

Sylvia Mayworm

Linda Mazur

Christine McCann

Robin McCarthy

Patti Orcholski

Larry Orcholski

Ludina Sallam

Cheryl Samuel

Ernest Scarcelli

Connie Stamos

Doug Stephen

Barbara Stephen

Tammi Steren

Lenny Steren

Mary Tressel

Mike Tressel

Weston Bonaventure

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