

# JOB Transitional Living Program

*A Program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.*

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

### Introducing Our Newest Residents



**Erick** is a twenty-year-old college student majoring in Kinesiology at California State University Northridge. He was referred to the program by a current resident who knew that he needed stable housing in order to continue attending school and be a successful student. Since joining the program in April 2021, **Erick** has obtained employment at a local elementary school and made the Dean's list for the Spring 2021 semester.



**Destiny R.** is a twenty-two-year-old former foster youth that attends school at Los Angeles Valley College. She is majoring in Psychology and aspires to become a social worker and give back by advocating for foster youth. **Destiny R.** was previously in the program and rejoined in March 2021 because she needed stable housing. Since rejoining the program, **Destiny R.** has secured full-time employment at a local middle school, started building her savings, and obtained her driver license.



**Steven** is an eighteen-year-old college student that attends classes at Los Angeles Pierce College and California State University Northridge. He is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and enjoys working on cars in his spare time. **Steven** was referred to the program by his older brother and current resident, **Kevin**. **Steven** joined the program because he needed stable housing and guidance. Since joining the program in April 2021, **Steven** has obtained his driver license and secured employment at a local restaurant.

#### ***Our Mission***

The mission of JOB Transitional Living Program is to create a trauma informed, culturally aware, and safe environment for our Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)/homeless youth to utilize their individual strengths to end the cycle of poverty and become pillars of the community.

### *Message from the Director*

With light at the end of the tunnel from the COVID-19 pandemic, JOB has emerged stronger than ever. With life comes challenges big and small. Challenges present an opportunity for new ideas, solutions, and success. JOB never closed its doors during the pandemic and adapted well to continue assisting its residents to succeed. Two residents of the Men's Program successfully transitioned into their own housing and two young men entered the JOB program. One hundred percent of JOB residents are employed and one hundred percent have obtained a driver license. JOB provides hope for some of society's most vulnerable; former foster youth and homeless youth. Youth that have the character to not let their circumstances define them. JOB reinforces to all its youth that they define themselves and are masters of their destiny. I would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals who have supported JOB during the first half of the year: **Tim McAnany, Pete Corona, Jennifer Wardell**, and a special thank you to **Alejandra Kiernan** and her friends, **Dara Monahan, Michele Lorfida, and Alicia Carter**. All of your support is greatly appreciated. JOB will be adding an After Care program for its residents that have transitioned out of the program. The After Care program will follow these youth and offer assistance and resources for their continued success.

Sincerely,  
Keith Wieser  
Program Director



## Success Stories



### Pursuing the American Dream

After a two-year process, **Aaron** (pictured above) has obtained U.S. citizenship. **Aaron** was born in Germany and brought over to the United States when he was two years old. He was placed in the foster care system at fifteen and began the process of obtaining citizenship during high school. **Aaron** aged out of the foster care system at eighteen years old and joined the JOBE program during his freshman year of college. When asked what becoming a citizen means to him, **Aaron** stated, "Becoming a U.S. citizen is one step closer to a career as an engineer. It is finishing the immigration process my parents started seventeen years ago and the beginning of a new chapter in my story as I pledge allegiance to America. Becoming a U.S. citizen does not mean that I forget my heritage, it just means that I am adopting a new one as a German American. I am glad to be joining the American story alongside millions of other immigrants and to be able to pursue the American dream."

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### Get connected and learn more about JOBE Transitional Living Program

Website: [www.jobetlp.org](http://www.jobetlp.org)

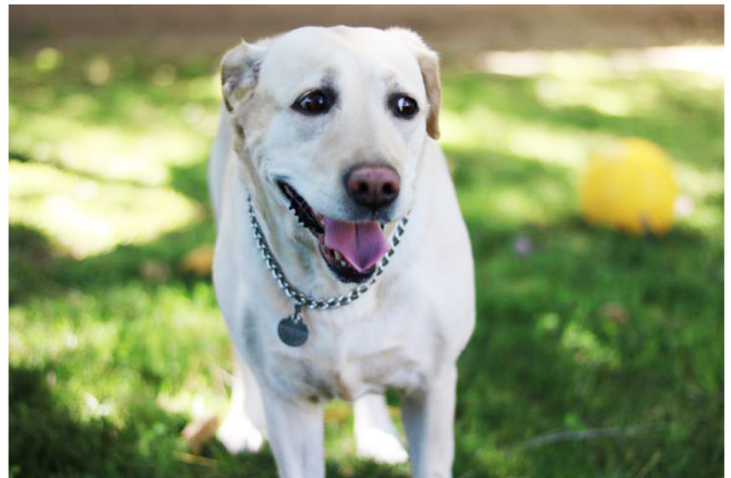
Instagram: @jobe\_tlp

Facebook: "JOBE Transitional Living Program"



### Growth, Patience, and Resilience

**Destiny B.** and **Xina** (pictured above from left to right) brought in the Spring season by repotting houseplants. **Xina** is a plant enthusiast and has brought her love of plants to the Women's Program. She has influenced her roommates to love plants just as much as she does. Houseplants have become a wonderful addition to their apartment because they symbolize growth, patience, and resilience.



Program Director **Keith's** dog, **Daisy** (pictured above), is the unofficial "therapy dog" for the residents and staff of JOBE. She is a pleasure to have around because she has a very calming influence around the home and brings happiness to everyone she encounters. Studies say that dogs provide a calming, therapeutic environment to everyone they meet. **Daisy's** presence turns a bad day into a good day. She is guaranteed to greet everyone with a smile, wagging tail, and lots of love. Fun fact: **Daisy** has been named "Employee of the Month" since she joined the JOBE team.





**The JOBE Team.** From left to right: Counselor John, Program Director Keith, Counselor Mike, Counselor Maria, Counselor Roxana, Counselor Isaac, Case Manager Teshée, Counselor Tania.

### **JOBE Shows Appreciation for its Team**

The JOBE Team gathered at a restaurant for a team appreciation lunch, sponsored by Program Director **Keith**. The JOBE Team has always been dedicated to providing supportive services and meeting the needs of the residents. However, they banded together and really displayed an amazing sense of dedication to JOBE during the COVID-19 pandemic. JOBE's doors remained open to its clients and staff were present and reliable, covering shifts for one another and volunteering to work long hours, when needed. Program Director **Keith** is appreciative of all the commitment and resiliency the team demonstrated during the pandemic.

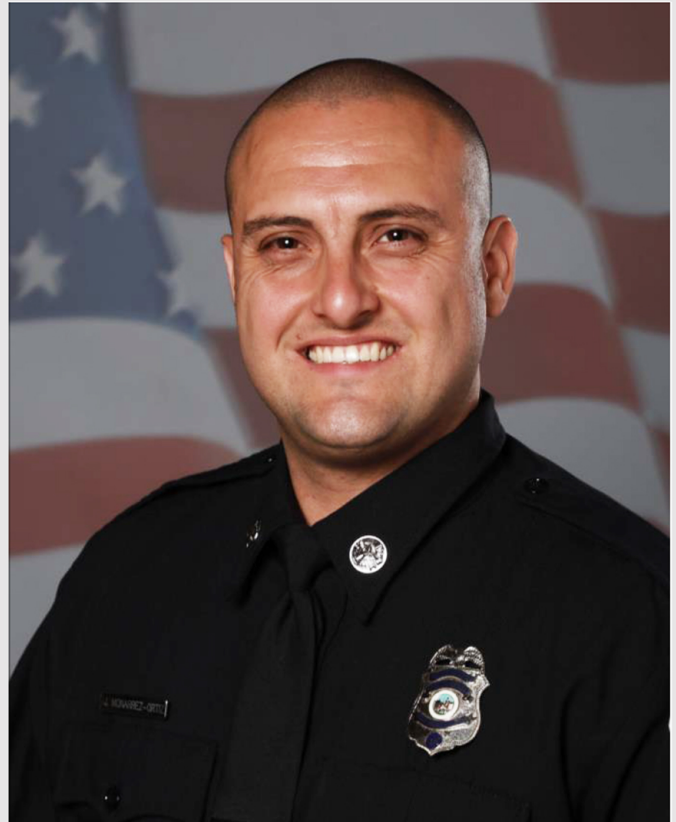


### **Peace & Happiness**

The backyard is one of the most peaceful areas of the JOBE House. **Erick** (pictured above) recently joined the program and often spends time soaking up sun in the beautiful backyard. JOBE promotes self-care and wellbeing so its residents learn to manage the daily stresses of college life.

## *Success Stories*

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### **Former Foster Youth Obtains Dream Career**

Former foster youth and former counselor, **Jesse Monarrez**, obtained his lifelong dream of becoming a firefighter for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. **Jesse** grew up in Boyle Heights and was placed into the foster care system as a youth. He spent several years in the system before being adopted out by his grandmother. **Jesse** always knew that he wanted to become a firefighter and persevered through many obstacles to achieve that goal. **Jesse** used his life experience as a former foster youth to give back to other former foster youth as a counselor from 2012-2016. **Jesse** was a great role model for the youth that he worked with. During that time, he attended East Los Angeles College and earned a certificate in Fire Science in 2013. In 2014, **Jesse** graduated from Verdugo Fire Academy and began volunteering for the City of Vernon Fire Department from 2016-2018. **Jesse's** perseverance paid off as he was hired by the Vernon Fire Department in 2019, which became a part of Los Angeles County Fire Department in 2020. Since achieving this success, **Jesse** now takes care of his grandmother. **Jesse's** story is a testament to the character and resilience of foster youth, that they too can live a very successful, happy and productive life.



## Recent Birthdays at JOBE



Elmer (pictured above) celebrating his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Emmanuel (pictured above) celebrating his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.



## Therapy Services Now Offered at JOBE

JOBE Transitional Living Program is proud to announce that it has added therapy to its list of supportive services. In addition to daily stress from school and work, many residents have experienced abandonment, loss, family issues, and other past and current traumas that can affect their mental health. Starting June 2021, residents will have an opportunity to meet with a licensed therapist, provided by JOBE, at no cost to them. JOBE's goal is to help break the stigma of mental health and provide an outlet for residents in support of their overall wellbeing. According to Program Director Keith, "complete health includes mental health."



## Support JOBE Transitional Living Program

On behalf of the wonderful young men and women of JOBE, "thank you" to all of our donors and program supporters. Because of you, JOBE is able to continue providing supportive services to its clients. In addition to monetary donations, JOBE accepts a wide range of new and gently-used items such as professional clothing for men and women, hygiene items, school supplies for college students, exercise equipment, office supplies, kitchen supplies, and more! If you are interested in supporting JOBE, please call (818) 477-2389 for more information.