

JOBE Transitional Living Program

A program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Class of 2022 Graduation Edition



JOBE Resident. Kamau in front of the CSUN library.

Congratulations to **Kamau** for graduating with honors from California State University Northridge (CSUN) with a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies! He is an excellent student who has been recognized for outstanding academic achievement and listed on the Dean's List for numerous semesters. **Kamau** also has been awarded several scholarships throughout his undergraduate education. Most recently, he was awarded the Margaret J. Brown Memorial Award which honored two graduating seniors who have earned an overall grade point average of 3.0 or greater.

In addition to becoming a college graduate, **Kamau** has been accepted into graduate school to pursue a Master of Arts in Diverse Community Development Leadership at CSUN! This is an outstanding accomplishment for **Kamau** who was a first-generation college student, and is now a first-generation college graduate. By furthering his education, **Kamau** aspires to secure a career that will allow him to uplift his community, become a role model to his younger siblings, and provide opportunities to other youth striving to overcome the same adversities that he experienced in his lifetime.

Kamau joined the program in 2017 during his first year of college, at a time when he desperately needed stable housing. He is JOBЕ's longest-tenured resident and has reached numerous benchmarks along the way including obtaining a driver license, purchasing his first car, securing employment and earning valuable work experience, starting a savings account, building his credit, and successfully managing his personal finances. **Kamau** has thrived at JOBЕ and is proof that when determination is combined with opportunity, guidance, and support, success is inevitable.

Message from the Director

As another semester winds down at JOBЕ, we are proud to announce another college graduate, **Kamau**. He graduated in just over four years from California State University Northridge. **Kamau** navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, distance learning, and graduated in just over four years which is an accomplishment in itself. JOBЕ continues to set the standard of housing for TAY youth (transitional age youth) with numerous wraparound services such as outstanding Life skills classes, mentoring program, financial literacy program, therapy services and the new after care program. JOBЕ sets the bar for wraparound services for TAY youth. Every youth that enters the JOBЕ program transitions into independence better prepared to succeed and be self-sufficient. JOBЕ jumpstarts the futures of some of society's most underserved population, former foster youth.

Sincerely,

Keith Wieser
Program Director



JOBE Resident. Daniel preparing for his first behind-the-wheel driving lesson.

Introducing our Newest Resident

Daniel is nineteen years old and joined the JOBE program in February 2022. **Daniel** was referred to the program by his friend and current resident of the program, **Oscar**. **Daniel** joined the program because he needed stable housing in order to continue his education. Since joining the program, he has been hired at a local restaurant, started a savings account, completed driver training, obtained his driver license, and enrolled into classes at Los Angeles Pierce College. **Daniel** aspires to graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Our Mission

The mission of JOBE 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.



Six Flags Magic Mountain Outing. Left to right: Daniel, Kevin, Oscar, Edwin, Erick, Emmanuel, Aaron, Xina, and Virna (JOBE Counselor).

Spring Break was a Thrill!

JOBE residents enjoyed an outing at Six Flags Magic Mountain during spring break. This was JOBE's first big outing in two years. There were some real thrill seekers in the group who wanted to ride all the big roller coasters. The most memorable part was when everyone road Jet Stream together and got soaked! During a break from the rides, they ate lunch and enjoyed some friendly competition while playing carnival games. Visiting a theme park was a first time experience for some of the residents. Overall, it was a great relationship building opportunity for everyone and a chance to relax, let loose, and take a break from the monotony of school work and studying for exams.



Six Flags Magic Mountain Outing. Left to right: Emmanuel, Edwin, Erick, and Bree.

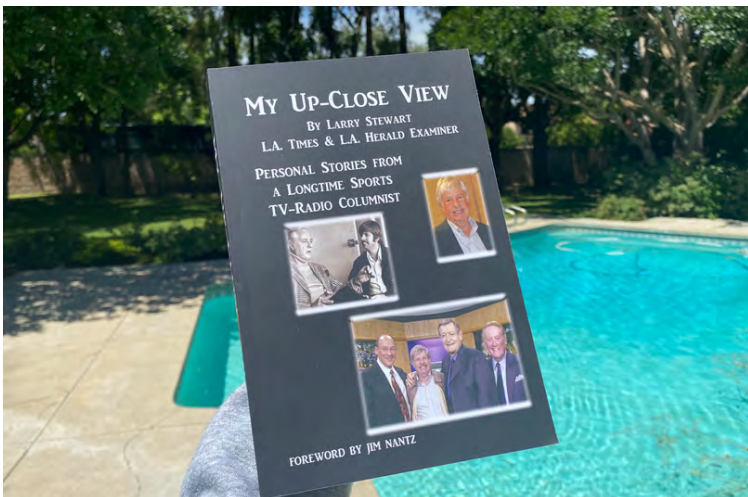


Book Signing Event. *Left to right:* Ross Porter, Larry Stewart, Marquis Williams (JOBE Counselor), Bob Miller, Patrick Healy, and Keith Wieser (JOBE Program Director).

"My Up-Close View"

JOBE hosted **Larry Stewart's** book signing of his memoir "My Up-Close View." Former Dodger announcer **Ross Porter**, former Hall of Fame King announcer **Bob Miller**, and retired NBC news reporter **Patrick Healy** all attended the book signing. Decades of stories were shared of LA sports and news.

Larry is a valued long-time supporter of the JOBE program and has assisted the preparation and organization of numerous fundraising events. **Larry** utilized many of his resources and relationships over his long-tenured career as a sports writer to help JOBE raise capital. **Larry** is a dedicated supporter of JOBE and always makes himself available to assist in JOBE fundraisers.



"My Up-Close View." Memoir by Larry Stewart. Available for purchase on Amazon.



JOBE Resident. Edwin grilling burgers in the backyard for his housemates.

What's Cooking?

Learning how to cook is an integral part of the JOBE program. It is an important life skill that all residents will learn during their time at JOBE. We implement this by requiring one resident each night to cook dinner for the house. Residents are encouraged to get creative and try new recipes. Popular recipes include **Erick's** Cajun chicken pasta, **Emmanuel's** salmon burgers, **Maya's** homemade cookies, **Oscar's** chipotle chicken drumsticks, **Aaron's** steak and potatoes, and **Destiny B.'s** biscuits and gravy.

Get connected and learn more about JOBE Transitional Living Program:

Website:
www.jobetlp.org

Instagram:
 @jobe_tlp

Facebook:
 "JOBE Transitional Living Program"



Guest Speaker with JOBE Residents. *Left to right:* Kevin, Erick, Daniel, Emmanuel, Aaron, Oscar, Joseph (guest speaker), Raphael, Kamau, Maya, Xina, and Destiny B.

Life Skills Classes

Life skills classes were a success this semester! The classes were designed based on topics suggested by JOBE residents. Guest speaker, **Joseph Shane**, kicked off the semester by speaking to the group about taxes and financial literacy. Residents learned about budgeting and saving for the future. JOBE Counselor, **Virna Cortez**, used her professional experience to present about real estate and addressing the myths about property ownership. **Virna** emphasized to residents that home ownership is in fact a realistic goal for their futures. JOBE Case Manager, **Teshée Stamps**, spoke to residents about the process of transitioning out of the program and preparing to live independently. Residents were presented with information about what to have prepared when searching for their first apartment, choosing reliable roommates, and what to expect along the way. Guest speaker and licensed clinical social worker, **Arianna Martinez**, spoke with the group about mental health and the importance of self-care. The purpose of this class was to help break the stigma of mental health. Life skills classes take place one Friday evening a month during the spring and fall semesters.



JOBE Counselor with Residents. *Left to right:* Erick, Aaron, Xina, Virna (JOBE counselor), Daniel, Kamau, Oscar, Emmanuel, and Edwin.

Recent Birthdays



Kevin (pictured above) celebrating his 19th birthday



Daniel (pictured above) celebrating his 19th birthday



Emmanuel (pictured above) celebrating his 23rd birthday