

# JOB Transitional Living Program

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

## Winter 2023 Newsletter

### **Introducing Our Newest Resident**



Clara is a twenty-three-year-old student at California State University Northridge (CSUN). She was referred to the program by Counselor Virna who knew that she was in need of safe and stable housing in order to continue being a successful college student. Clara is a junior majoring in child development. She aspires to work in early childhood education. Clara is a member of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc., a CSUN sorority that focuses on academics, community service, and sisterhood. Clara currently holds three positions in her sorority:

Treasurer, Alumnae Chair, and United Sorority Fraternity Council (USFC) Liaison. These are all positions that will provide Clara with valuable experience and opportunities to grow as a young professional.

Clara is a bright young woman with an even brighter future. Since joining the program, she completed the most recent semester with straight A's! Clara's short-term goals include continuing her education at CSUN, securing employment related to her major, learning to manage her personal finances, building her savings account, and purchasing a reliable car. The Jobe program will be there to support and assist Clara along the way.

### **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**

Welcome to the New Year! In this issue we highlight resident success stories and events from the end of 2022. We are proud to celebrate two residents who have successfully transitioned out of the program into independent living, another resident who has begun graduate school, and a newer resident who is quickly reaching benchmarks as well as achieving personal goals. Their stories are all examples of young adults who have overcome obstacles in their lives and are now flourishing with the support and guidance that they need. One of Jobe's major events of 2022 was when NBA Hall of Famer Jerry West visited and gave a motivational speech to the program. The residents and staff were mesmerized listening to his words. Particularly regarding two things that people should avoid throughout their lives: "jealousy and envy." Here at Jobe, we are always searching for opportunities to motivate our youth to work hard and earn all their successes in life. We are very proud to witness the many achievements of our former and current residents as they pursue their goals and dreams.

Sincerely,

Keith Wieser  
Program Director

## Success Stories



### Xina Successfully Transitions Out

Xina joined the program in 2019. She is on track to graduate from CSUN in May 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Entertainment Media Management. Throughout her tenure at Jobe, Xina has reached many benchmarks including earning valuable work experience, building her savings, passing her classes and purchasing her own car. Xina successfully transitioned out of the program in February 2023 and will remain connected with Jobe through the Aftercare Program.



### Kamau Begins Graduate School

Kamau joined the program in 2017. Kamau graduated from CSUN with a bachelor's degree in Africana Studies in May 2022. He has since begun pursuing a master's degree in Diverse Community Development Leadership and has excelled at completing his first semester with straight A's!



**JOBE Residents with Jerry West.** Top left to right: Kevin, Aaron, Christian, Xina, Jerry West, Erick, Daniel, Anonymous, Maya, Destiny R. Bottom left to right: Kamau, Emmanuel, Oscar, Edwin.

### NBA Legend Jerry West Visits JOBÉ

Jerry West, one of L.A.'s – and the nation's – greatest sports legends spoke to Jobe residents on Oct. 15. West opened his speech by talking about his childhood. "It's a dark story," he said. It was basketball that changed his life as he went on to star at West Virginia University, co-captain the gold-medal winning 1960 U.S. Olympic basketball team along with Oscar Robertson, and then enter into his amazing NBA career. He starred on the Bill Sharman-coached Laker team that won 33 games in a row and the L.A. Lakers' first NBA championship in 1972. The 33-game win streak is a record for all professional sports in the U.S. West, who now works for the Clippers, talked about his lifelong career in basketball, and so much more. He emphasized two words to the group – envy and jealousy – two things that should be avoided throughout one's life. He talked about setting goals and doing what it takes to achieve those goals. He talked about avoiding drugs and always showing caution. "You have red, yellow and green lights," he said. "For me, there is either red or green. If there is caution, don't do it." West also talked about his personal struggles with depression but also pointed out he has had a great life because of basketball and because of a creative mind. "I can see things clearly," he said. He also talked about the importance of smiling, being nice, and helping the less fortunate.



**JOBÉ Team with Jerry West.** Left to right: Counselor Amanda, Counselor Marquis, Counselor Virna, Jerry West, Program Director Keith, Counselor Isaac, Associate Program Director Teshée.

## Success Stories



### Destiny B. Successfully Transitions Out

Destiny B. joined the program in 2019. Destiny graduated from College of the Canyons with an associate's degree in Public Health in June 2022. She has since completed a phlebotomy course and is on track to become a licensed phlebotomist and pursue a nursing degree. Destiny successfully transitioned out of the program in November 2022 and receives continued support through Jobe's Aftercare Program.



### Christian Quickly Reaches Benchmarks

Christian joined the program in August 2022. Since joining the program last summer, he has secured employment, been offered a promotion, obtained a driver permit and license, and earned a position on the Dean's List for his first semester in college. Christian has also committed to living a healthier lifestyle and as a result, he has lost over 100 pounds!

## Recent Birthdays



**JOBÉ Resident.** Erick celebrating his 22nd birthday.



**JOBÉ Resident.** Edwin celebrating his 24th birthday.

## 2022 Holiday Memories



### Get connected and learn more:

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

Instagram: [@jobetlp](https://www.instagram.com/jobetlp)

## Recent Birthdays



**JOBE Resident.** Christian celebrating his 19th birthday.



**JOBE Resident.** Maya celebrating her 20th birthday.