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Local nonprofit, community come together to support low-income students' success.

Wesley House & Life Science Cares help students transition to workforce.

San Diego, April 17, 2024 – Wesley House Student Residence and Life Science Cares San Diego have partnered to support low-income and system-impacted college students through their academic journeys and into the real world. With graduation just around the corner, many students are preparing for interviews and their first professional jobs post-college. On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Wesley House and Life Science Cares will provide low-income students with the professional clothing they need to make a great first impression with future employers.

Through the successful and impactful Wesley House Student Food Pantry, which served over 750 low-income students in 2023, gently used professional clothing from major brand names will be offered to Wesley House clients. In a demonstration of community support, all clothing was donated by a Life Science Cares corporate partner and a Wesley House major donor.

“The success of our programming relies on the support and generosity of our community and partners. Life Science Cares has continuously gone above and beyond to ensure our students’ success,” says Lisa Norombaba, executive director of Wesley House, *“Our students have the skills and knowledge to excel after graduating; we provide the tools they need to put those skills and knowledge to work to strengthen the San Diego community.”*

What: Professional Clothing Giveaway

When: April 24, 2022, 10:00 am

Interview & visuals opportunity: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Where: Wesley House Student Residence, 5710 Hardy Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115

Story Opportunity: Opportunity to interview low-income students about their experiences in college, and staff regarding the importance of this type of support.

Photo/footage Opportunity: Opportunity to get photos and footage of students using the Wesley House food pantry, the clothing giveaway, and the surrounding SDSU college campus.

About Life Science Cares

Life Science Cares San Diego is a bridge between the life science industry and nonprofits dedicated to making a substantial impact on poverty. Through partnerships with life science corporations, Life Science Cares is able to give grants to poverty alleviation-focused nonprofits, and dedicated life science volunteers to support nonprofit missions.

Life Science Cares is a national organization operating in five locations that boast a strong presence of companies working in biotech, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, and research: Boston, Philadelphia, the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, and San Diego.

About Wesley House Student Residence

Wesley House Student Residence equips low-income and system-impacted post-secondary students to achieve their goals through affordable housing and wraparound support services. We break systemic barriers to higher education experienced by these individuals by ensuring their basic needs are met and providing access to in-house and community resources designed to meet their emergent needs.

Many Wesley House students encounter barriers related to identifying as homeless or formerly homeless, formerly incarcerated, former foster youth, and/or first-generation college students. Wesley House provides these students with a safe place to live and study and access to a wide array of housing and support services designed to ensure they can focus on their studies and persist in their education.

Wesley House currently serves over 1,100 students registered for their services.

The Need

Providing easy-to-navigate access to resources and academic and emotional support can be the difference between a student dropping out of college to meet their basic needs or graduating with a degree or certification that will increase their earning potential and open pathways out of poverty while strengthening communities. Studies show that higher education has a direct and positive impact on long-term health outcomes while creating opportunities to break the cycle of poverty ([health.gov](https://www.health.gov)). The most prominent needs amongst college students with low incomes are housing and food security. Additionally, these students often lack the support system provided by family that is vital to success in higher education and young adulthood.

The Numbers

- 2 in 3 college students in San Diego experience housing and/or food insecurity.
- Nationally, over 6 million college students' education has been deterred or delayed due to housing insecurity.
- According to a 2021 study, **59% of San Diego college students** report experiencing housing insecurity.
- The same study reports **18% of San Diego college students** experiencing homelessness.
 - Homelessness includes living in a vehicle, couch-surfing, living in hotels, temporarily staying with family and/or friends, sleeping on the street, and generally not having a stable, secure place to live.
- 32% of San Diego youth have 3 or more sleeping locations in any given week.

Sources: Hope Center for College, Community, & Justice; California Coalition for Youth; San Diego Youth Homelessness Consortium

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Please contact Joe Shumate at joseph@sdwesleyhouse.org or 619-616-7600 for more information or to arrange for interviews. Photos and b-roll available at sdwesleyhouse.org/press-room.

Wesley House Student Residence, Inc. aims to break the cycle of poverty and build strong communities through support of equitable access to higher education.