

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joseph Shumate, Director of Development & Marketing
P: 619.616.7600 | joseph@sdwesleyhouse.org

Low-income college grads prep to enter new reality.

Wesley House, community help students transition to workforce with weakened economy and social safety net.

San Diego, April 17, 2024 – Wesley House Student Residence reached out to the San Diego community 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, their first professional jobs post-college, transitioning to their first apartments, and balancing a real-world budget. On Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Wesley House will provide low-income students with:

- Professional clothing needed to make a great first impression.
- Access to a housing navigator who can help them get set up in a new living situation.
- Application assistance for CalFresh and other public assistance to help them get on their feet.

Through the successful and impactful Wesley House Student Food Pantry, which served over 2,100 low-income students and San Diego residents in 2024, 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 San Diego residents, community partners, and through the local foundation Life Science Cares.

“The success of our programming relies on the support and generosity of our community and partners. San Diego has a history of coming together in support of our most vulnerable,” says Lisa Norombaba, executive director of Wesley House, *“Our students have the skills and knowledge to excel after graduating; when we, as a community, provide the tools they need to put those skills and knowledge to work, it strengthens us all.”*

What: Professional Clothing Giveaway

When: May 14, 2025, 10:00 am

Interview & visuals opportunity: 10:00 am – 11:00 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 what they face as they transition into the current economy’s workforce.

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

A native Spanish speaker is on staff and available for interviews.

About Wesley House Student Residence

Wesley House Student Residence aims to break the cycle of poverty and build strong

communities by supporting equitable access to higher education through affordable housing and support services. The organization breaks systemic barriers to higher education experienced by these low-income and system-impacted post-secondary students by ensuring 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 2,200 students registered for 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

###

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.