

## Notice of Event

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## San Diego City Council honors local nonprofit

Council President Elo-Rivera presents council Proclamation

**November 17, 2022 is Wesley House Student Residence Day**

**San Diego, November 17, 2022** – Wesley House Student Residence, situated in the College Area of San Diego just steps from San Diego State University, is being honored by the San Diego City Council on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> for its 17 years of service to the community. Since 2005, the nonprofit has provided essential support to low-income and system-impacted youth pursuing a higher education.

**San Diego City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera** will speak at a special event during which Wesley House will unveil its building's new façade, share the current statistics on college poverty, and discuss their solutions and plans to support student success in the region.

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**What:** Wesley House Grand Unveiling

**When:** August 17, 2022, 4:30 pm

**Interview & visuals opportunity:** 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm with Council President Sean Elo-Rivera, Wesley House students, board, and staff, and opportunities to see the affordable housing complex and inside a student's apartment.

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

**Story Opportunity:** Press will have the opportunity to interview students currently residing in the Wesley House Affordable Housing Complex who are currently experiencing the challenges associated with college poverty and may provide a look into a day in the life of these students.

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### Council President Elo-Rivera's connection to the Wesley House Mission

San Diego City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera represents San Diego's 9<sup>th</sup> district and is committed to the realization of his vision of *Opportunity for All*. He was elected as a Councilmember in November 2020 and then elected City Council President in December of 2021. Before joining the council, he served as an elected member of the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees and as the Executive Director of Youth Will where he worked to create a future where every young person is happy, healthy, and prepared to reach their potential.

*"Housing is a human right. Students especially need and deserve a stable home to learn, grow, and explore opportunities while attending school,"* said City Council President Elo-Rivera, *"That's why I'm so grateful to the Wesley House Student Residence for providing food, housing, emotional support, and other services for SDSU students for the past 17 years."*

### About Wesley House Student Residence

Wesley House provides access to affordable housing and wraparound support services to low-income, full-time college and university students in San Diego County. These individuals face the usual challenges associated with higher education including high tuition and fees, the cost of books and supplies, and San Diego's exorbitant cost of living and housing. In addition to these stressors, Wesley

House students also encounter barriers related to identifying as homeless or formerly homeless, formerly incarcerated, a former foster youth, a first-generation college student, and/or an immigrant.

Wesley House provides these students with a safe place to live and study, access to a full food pantry, free Wi-Fi, an on-site social worker and case management, soft- and hard-skills workshops and seminars, referrals to additional resources and community partners, and application assistance for financial aid and public programs such as CalFresh and Covered California.

## 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. Studies show that a 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.

## Student Stories

*Amber Miller* – Amber is a senior at San Diego State university on track to graduate with a degree in criminal justice. She is a formerly homeless, formerly incarcerated single mother who currently resides at Wesley House. Amber will graduate at the end of the fall semester and is applying to attend grad school to study Social Work. Amber mentors incarcerated youth and teaches them about the benefits of higher education after release.

*Sam Gilboy* – Sam currently attends Mesa College and is majoring in Japanese. She has an Associate's degree in liberal arts and plans to transfer to SDSU to pursue a Bachelor's in Japanese. She identifies as low-income and, although her parent has a college degree, has faced barriers associated with poverty. Sam plans to work as a translator after graduating.

## 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](mailto:joseph@sdwesleyhouse.org) or 619-616-7600 for more information or to arrange for interviews. Photos available at [sdwesleyhouse.org/press-room](https://sdwesleyhouse.org/press-room).*

Wesley House Student Residence empowers qualifying students to achieve their goals through affordable housing and support services. Our vision is that every low-income student has access to equitable college experiences.