

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Joseph Shumate, Director of Development & Marketing  
P: 619.616.7600 | [joseph@sdwesleyhouse.org](mailto:joseph@sdwesleyhouse.org)

## Local nonprofit receives multi-year grant to fight college poverty.

Wesley House Student Residence received a multi-year grant totaling \$675,000 to increase its capacity to serve post-secondary students in need.

**San Diego, December 25, 2023** – Wesley House Student Residence recently received generous funding from a donor-advised fundholder of the Jewish Community Foundation. The 3-year grant will result in the organization receiving \$675,000 in contributions to support their mission and consists of three yearly unrestricted gifts accompanied by matching grant challenges. At this time, the donor-advised fundholder wishes to remain anonymous.

The Wesley House fundraising staff worked closely with the Jewish Community Foundation to develop a grant that would enable the organization to build its capacity and achieve ongoing sustainability. Wesley House has been in operation since 2005. The multi-year grant, once completed, will position the organization to expand operations with additional services, housing assistance, and/or master leases.

It is estimated that this funding is equivalent to supporting 24 low-income and system-impacted students for the next three years with wraparound support services and affordable student housing.

### Wesley House in 2023

From 2021 to 2023, the impact of Wesley House programming has grown by a factor of 10. In 2023, Wesley House:

- Served 705 post-secondary students.
  - 82% identify as BIPOC.
- Provided food assistance to 863 clients with nearly 5,000 visits.
  - Distributed over 56,000 pounds of food.
- Provided mentors to 20 students.
- Hosted 10 life skills workshops presented by 6 content experts.

### The Need

The *starving college student* trope masks a systemic and often unseen crisis in higher education. College poverty affects 3 out of 5 college and university students in San Diego County. These are students who have experienced food and/or housing insecurity in the last year. College students who experience such financial stressors are more likely to discontinue their education and remain trapped in the cycle of poverty. Higher education is one of the fastest ways for a person to exit poverty.

###

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.