In 2017, we had the privilege of applying for a grant from the SAM Initiative to build our shelter and home. A diploma is powerful, and so are you.

We hold dearly the belief and friendship you entrust us with, as we do something for young people trying to chart a better future for themselves. Compassion is one of our central tenets, and we thank you for sharing your compassion, time, talent, and funds in our mission.

On behalf of the young people and students we serve, we express our profound and humble gratitude.
Thanks to the SAM Initiative, in 2017 we added:

1 shower

3 additional beds

1 washer and dryer

3 square meals every day

1 zoning permit from the City of Santa Monica!
Which means

120 additional nights

were created for young people to have a safe place to sleep and food to eat, in order to succeed in school.
We have built partnerships with and gotten referrals for students in need from many higher education institutions across Los Angeles.
“My name is Jennifer, and I am half Middle Eastern, half American; born in New Mexico and later moved to Jordan to take care of my parents. The Syrian War erupted and the Jordanian economy sunk along with it. Finding work or a room to rent is really hard; I didn’t know that my identity was so displeasing. One day, I hope to become a dentist.”
"I’m Keyshawn: a transfer student from Long Beach. My two siblings and I are survivors of sexual abuse, and we could no longer stay where we were. I want to become an Orthopedic Surgeon when I finish school, and I will do anything to get my education."
Our members learn the importance of serving others. Every member of the SAM Initiative has served as an example that helps us develop young leaders who band together and give back to the community. Our volunteers are outstanding civic innovators who inspire us profoundly.
We welcomed Sarah Tanase onto the S4S team as a Program Fellow. She served as a student volunteer last year, and has since graduated with her B.S. in neuroscience.

"Service is something that has given my life so much meaning and purpose, especially in the past few years. It is one of the few things that consistently brings a smile to my face and allows me to return a little piece of what I have been given to a community that needs it. S4S is a unique and hands-on way to serve such an underrepresented population and to try and lift some of the burdens that no college student should ever have to go through.

My favorite memory would have to be the weekend of Thanksgiving. Since we had a couple extra days off, I was able to go into the shelter for three of the nights and really get to know some of the residents. We bonded over food, music, a common interest in psychology, and the basic everyday struggles of being a college student."
In 2017, we've grown quite a bit organizationally and plan to grow even more in 2018:

• welcomed Sarah Tanase as a program fellow, Teresa Bridwell and Nancy Greenstein as Board Members, and Michelle Ross as Development Advisor
• graduated to using Little Green Light as our donor management software to improve donor stewardship
• plan to send a newsletter every quarter, updating our supporters with our latest happenings, stories from the shelter, and latest research on the issue of college homelessness
• identified several grant opportunities and plan to submit four grant applications this year
• developed new leaders in the student group as promising candidates as fellows
We share our gratitude with the supporters we’ve developed in the past year:

7 new partnerships
5 new grant awards

with community, faith-based, education, and business organizations

- Beauty Bus Foundation
- Eat Club
- Southern California College Access Network
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Santa Monica Stake
- UNITE-LA
- University Lutheran Church
- West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

- All Ways Up Foundation ($4,000)
- E2C Foundation ($5,000)
- Safenowitz Family Foundation ($2,500)
- Westly Foundation ($5,000)
- Windward School ($10,000)
THANK YOU, FROM THE S4S FAMILY TO THE SAM INITIATIVE FAMILY!