



*Upward Transitions prevents generational poverty in our community!*

American Tourist

**Cinco  
de  
Mayo  
2023**

Presented by  
Upward  
Transitions



## COUNTDOWN TO AMERICAN TOURIST!

Join us for Upward Transitions

**American Tourist - "Cinco de Mayo"  
Friday, May 5, 2023  
OKC'S Farmers Public Market**

American Tourist is Upward Transitions' annual fundraising event that supports our Community Outreach program to serve Central Oklahoma.

Our colorful evening includes silent and live auctions; wine and jewelry pulls; raffles; live music and dancing; and delicious Mexican food and refreshing beverages.

*We need volunteers to help with the event. If you are interested in helping, please [click here to sign up!](#)*

**Click the link below for American Tourist event information and to purchase sponsorships, tables, or tickets:**

**[You're invited to American Tourist!](#)**

## Upward Transitions to Honor Tricia Everest at American Tourist

On Friday, May 5, 2023, Upward Transitions will honor Tricia Everest, Oklahoma Secretary of Public Safety, at its annual American Tourist fundraising event hosted at Oklahoma City's Historic Farmers Public Market. The annual fundraiser event supports Upward Transitions' mission of



preventing generational poverty in Oklahoma County through its Community Outreach program and services.

[Click Here to Read More!](#)

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**Join us on Tuesdays @ 10:30 am for "A Moment of Hope with Upward Transitions" on Facebook and YouTube!**

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## **HOPE WINS!**

Jeff came from what he calls a “broken childhood.” His father wasn’t in his life and at the age of 18 years old, his mother was murdered and both grandparents died within months apart. At that point in life, he no longer had any family and was all alone.

Jeff’s brokenness led him to become involved in gang activities and substance abuse. His poor choices resulted in him serving three separate prison incarcerations. Following his release in 2022, Jeff was homeless and went to stay at the City Rescue Mission shelter and enrolled in their program.

“I wanted help, and I wanted a ‘normal life,’” Jeff shared.

Jeff reached out to Northcare for counseling. Northcare soon referred him to Upward Transitions to retrieve his birth certificate and identification documents so he could access housing, employment, and other social services. An Upward Transitions case manager collaborated with Jeff to obtain his birth certificate and ID.

Once Jeff obtained his ID from Upward Transitions, he told his parole officer he wanted to go to college. The parole officer told him about an education program called the Center for Social Innovation offered at OSU-OKC. After only a few days, Jeff submitted his application and was accepted into the program.

“My journey in education has been very healing for me. I’ve been able to excel in all of my studies and I’m going to be involved in leadership,” Jeff explained. “I’m pursuing a degree in business.”

Jeff soon received his certification in Microsoft Office and obtained an internship at Integris Health as a business analyst in data science. He soon graduated from the program at City Rescue Mission and was recognized at the Mission of Hope at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for his accomplishments. Jeff’s focus and commitment to his education resulted in his 12-year parole sentence being suspended, which rarely happens.

“This has been the most powerful year for me. Being able to overcome all my obstacles; being able to make good grades in college; being able to excel; and coming from the situation I was in - life is great and I feel alive again!” exclaimed Jeff.

Through the programs and services of Upward Transitions supported by United Way of Central Oklahoma and the collaboration of community partners such as the City Rescue Mission, Northcare, and others, Jeff will join the leadership team at OSU-OKC to help welcome and mentor new students into the Center of Social Innovation program.

Together, the non-profit community created a safety net to help a man overcome his past and transform into a self-sustainable and productive citizen. His desire to give back and help others who share his struggles completes that circle of hope and compassion we invested in as a community.

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## Join Our Circle of Hope!

The members of the “Circle of Hope” are those supporters of Upward Transitions who have chosen to support the mission of preventing generational poverty by giving a monetary donation\* at a level of \$1,000 or more in a calendar year.

The “Circle of Hope” will be recognized at our annual American Tourist fundraiser and invited to a special Partner celebration in the fall of each year.

\$1,000 dollars is a meaningful investment in the work of Upward Transitions. Research reveals that a “one-time assistance of \$1,000 with rent or utility payments can prevent a family from becoming homeless for up to 2 years and 76% less likely to become homeless after 6 months.”

The “Circle of Hope” members are making a significant investment in the work of Upward Transitions. We are grateful for their partnership and for the hope they inspire every day through the work of community collaboration, emergency relief, and empowerment.

[Learn more about Upward Transitions' Circle of Hope](#)

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For more information, please email Karla Stinnett at [kstinnett@upwardtransitions.org](mailto:kstinnett@upwardtransitions.org), visit our website at [upwardtransitions.org](http://upwardtransitions.org), or call our office at 405-232-5507.



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