

“A happy heart makes a face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.” Proverbs 15:13

Dear Friends of Hope for Youth Alliance,

April 2008

I was greatly encouraged when Mrs. Martinez, a local teacher of one of our partnering schools came up to me recently and said, **“I just wanted to let you know that the mentoring is working.”** This teacher has taken notice of the countenance of a young girl in her school whose been matched with a mentor through Hope for Youth Alliance. Mrs. Martinez said, **“She smiles now and she even acknowledges me in the morning or every time she sees me.”** Because a mentor has filled a gap in the life of this young girl she is now filled with joy, more confident, and has someone to talk to.

In over ten years of working with youth the reality was, that a majority of the kids that we have worked with came from similar situations. The realization was that many of the kids we took on youth trips, basketball games, etc needed more than occasional gatherings and trips, they needed someone they could spend time with, build a trusting relationship with and someone to confide in, to help them deal with the emotional heartaches and scars they endure coming from their home environments. In many of these cases it is the first time that our youth will have someone to listen to them and understand them.

My whole hearted conviction is that if lasting change is going to happen in our communities, the families and youth that we serve, we must **know** the real stories of their lives and be a voice of hope and support that will allow them to become cheerful and confident young people. Mentoring is the vehicle to get to know the felt needs of youth and give them help and the tools they need to become successful *emotionally, academically, and spiritually*.

We have witnessed that young people who are saddened and making poor choices, is often a result of chaos in the home, divorce, or separation. Young people become cheerful when someone in their life like a mentor takes a special interest, intentionally builds up their morale and gives them meaning in life. That's the fulfillment of mentoring relationships.

Thanks for all your prayers and continued support of our ministry. May the Lord richly bless you for your concern and generosity.



PS. We have our very own personalized HYA “Got Mentors?” T-shirts in stock and we would like to send you one when you send your donation of \$15.00 or more this month in support of our transforming work in Northern New Mexico. Show your support and use the enclosed form to order your t-shirts and we will mail your shirt or you can pick them up at our office. Available in sizes S,M,L,XL.

With Gratitude,

Daniel Arellano  
President and Founder



Santa Fe County Juvenile Detention Center day program youth. During last months gang prevention assembly.

**Our Mission:** Hope for Youth Alliance exists to heal and transform the lives of youth in Northern New Mexico through mentoring relationships.

**Our Vision:** To build transformational mentoring relationships with 300 at-risk youth by 2010.