

From the Desk of Daniel I. Arellano

*“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm”* Proverbs 13:20

March 2008

Dear Friends of Hope for Youth Alliance,

I want to thank you for your kind financial generosity to Hope for Youth Alliance that has helped us to mentor youth in Northern New Mexico. HYA Mentors commit to a minimum of 1 year to meet with youth. I am convinced that the more time we are able to speak into the lives of youth that come to us, the more spiritual, academic and emotional impact we will have on them.

If I am encouraged by anything in 2008, I am encouraged that we are continuing to serve kids who are eager to want to have a mentor and want to have someone who will be a part of their lives to help them make better and wiser decisions to become successful. Many of the lives of youth that we are serving are a mixture of struggle, and poor decisions, but deep in their hearts they want to distinguish themselves as the ones who live better lives than the current circumstances they are in.

One 16 year old Latina girl who recently was assigned a mentor explained to me that she is living with a friend of the family because her mother has not wanted her, and told her that she didn't care if she remained in school. This young girl has often lived on her own since she was 13, and has faced many struggles. She believes that having a mentor will help her with the tools to continue *to make better and wiser decisions* and we believe it too!

Struggling kids from broken families are disconnected from people who care for them and want the wisdom and help that comes from the wise to have a better future. And like most individuals who live under these circumstances they display openness to spiritual encouragement and solutions that come through Jesus Christ. We are being asked constantly by youth on our waiting list if we have found them a mentor, they are asking because they desperately want someone who is willing to walk with them and be a part of their lives to give them the wisdom and tools to become successful.

We can only influence and touch the lives of more youth who want mentors if we have willing individuals who desire to become involved in this process, so, this month I am urging our supporters, mentors, and friends who receive our newsletters to get us in touch with Christian men and women who would want to invest and journey in the lives of young people who will help guide them to find solutions. We will train, provide the necessary background checks, offer support and specialized resources to mentors who have a desire to do so.

It is not hard for youth to find the wrong solutions to these dilemmas, often they only lead to continued cycle of brokenness, poverty, and lack of education. Many of these children may not be “our own” but they are children of God, whom he calls us to embrace and disciple. Will you join us in giving youth a purpose and a future? We can accomplish this!

You have been a true friend of Hope for Youth Alliance through your financial gifts and prayers for our program youth. I am so thankful for your love and partnerships.

With Gratitude,

Daniel Arellano  
President and Founder

**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.