

## BECOME AN URBAN ALLY

You can help leaders become the leader they were created to be.

Our Urban Allies are essential to fulfilling our mission through their monthly commitments of \$25 or more. These monthly partners ensure Urban Leaders have the certification, community, and coaching they need to Become the leaders they were created to Be and to reach more youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with UYWI. Would you consider Becoming an Urban Ally to further develop Urban Leaders and reach more youth with the Gospel?

Learn more at [uywi.org/donate/urban-ally](https://uywi.org/donate/urban-ally)



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# BE EMPOWERED

LEADING A CITY TO PEACE





Danny Sanchez, was once a troubled kid from San Jose, CA who would eventually find himself incarcerated. He is now an awarded “Champion of Change,” by President Barack Obama and “Movers of Mountains,” by The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Association of Santa Clara Valley. He has worked with government agencies such as

the US Department of Justice and Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology of Jalisco, Mexico. He is now also a published author of *Post-Traumatic Quest*, which details his pain and transformation towards God-centered peace.

When Danny was a child he had a dream of being a “person that helped” in his community. However, with his father in prison and his mother frequently away from home and working, that dream faded before completing elementary school. Influenced by his surroundings, Danny fell to drugs, alcohol, gang violence, and crime. He found himself in juvenile detention by age 13 and prison by 27. He was in car accidents that should have killed him, he was stabbed 11 times, he battled temptations of suicide, and cut himself. Danny romanticized death, because feeling alone and without support, he thought then maybe people would care.

Once out of prison and before meeting his parole officer, he drank and took drugs. In an attempt to clean out

his system, he took baking soda that nearly killed him. **Surrounded by vomit and blood, Danny thought he was going to die. In the moment of facing death, he realized he wanted to live.** In this radical experience with Jesus, he said to God, “If you are real, save me.” From that day forward, Danny’s entire life changed.

At 29-years-old, he moved into a church, went through a detox, and began serving at the church. He determined Jesus was committed to him, and he would be committed to God. After serving in many capacities of the church, Danny became a licensed and ordained minister. **God restored Danny’s calling that was given to him as a child of becoming a “helper in his community” through a life of ministry and helping young people to find hope in Christ.**

Around 2010, Danny created a crisis response chaplaincy for youth violence intervention in San Jose through his faith partnership with the Mayor’s Office and the gang task force. While doing a gang related funeral, Danny listened to the grieving of all the young people and saw them as sheep without a shepherd. From there Danny became the Founder and Executive Director of City of Peace Project, taking the faith initiative into schools.

In a given week, Danny and his team may connect with 5000 youth across 25 schools. They are reaching youth in San Jose to keep them alive, away from making the wrong choices, and to provide the support he once lacked. Danny desires to inspire youth that they would know Christ.



In April, it was an honor for our team to host a training for Danny’s team regarding SCARS, a UYWI resource for trauma-informed discipleship. Since then, we were able to walk with Danny on his strategic storyline, helping to clearly identify his mission. Out of that coaching, Danny has a more clear mission for City of Peace Project that he can articulate while sharing the work they do with others. In the near future, Danny hopes to partner with UYWI by certifying his leaders in the UYWI Certification Program.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership to help leaders, like Danny, to become the leaders they were created to be.

Bless you,

**TOMMY NIXON, CEO**  
Urban Youth Workers Institute