

This year, at the Fifth Annual Building Block Foundation Fund Celebration Event, attendees were given an opportunity to sponsor a deserving at risk youth. Below is a thank you card from a youth for tools and a tool belt.

ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY SISTER ELLEN MCNERNEY, CN, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TALLER SAN JOSE. IMAGE IS OF NINETEEN-YEAR OLD JESSE MONTALVO. WHEN JESSE WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, HIS FATHER WAS KILLED IN A WORK-RELATED ACCIDENT AND HIS MOTHER THEN TOOK ON A SECOND JOB TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY. WITH LITTLE PARENTAL SUPERVISION, JESSE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME ON THE STREETS. JESSE WAS INCARCERATED FOUR TIMES FOR GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY BEFORE COMING TO TALLER SAN JOSE. HE GRADUATED FROM TALLER WITH MICROSOFT OFFICE AND EXCEL CERTIFICATIONS AND HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. TODAY JESSE IS EARNING \$14.00 PER HOUR AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR A LOCAL COMPANY AND HAS REMAINED CRIME-FREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TALLER SAN JOSE, VISIT WWW.TALLERSANJOSE.ORG.

Hello,
My name is Alan [redacted] & I am a student in Taller San Jose's construction training program. Thank you very much for supporting young people like me: before I came to Taller San Jose I was lost with no hope & no goals. Since joining the program I've learned how to make goals for myself and my family & also think more about my future. When I graduate I plan to find a successful job using the skills I learned at TJS.

Thank you again for your donation. Because of you, I am now able to plan for a better future.

Sincerely,
Alan [redacted]