



SAY Yes Center & Nehemiah House in Pico Union, LA

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S.A.Y Yes! Pico Union is a church-based youth development center whose mission is: “mentoring youth for community transformation.” The center serves 35 youth, grades 3-12, three days a week after school.

The Nehemiah House provides a 10-month ministry internship for young adults through the First Evangelical Free Church of LA. The community’s mission is:

“raising a new generation of urban leaders.”

Both ministries are directed by Scott and Sarah Yetter, under the leadership of the church.



Thank you to Joel Jurado, Web Designer

SAY YES CENTER & NEHEMIAH HOUSE IN PICO UNION, LA

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Update from the directors: Scott and Sarah
- A recipe to try!
- Anai: our youngest mentor!
- Student review of the semester
- Financial update and prayer needs

Kingdom Chasers

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And now, meet the faces of change by Scott and Sarah Yetter

It was exciting to watch the recent presidential elections. Change seemed to be a watchword that we heard a lot. And as much as we support change in the government, we believe that the change Jesus initiated was largely through individuals. Relationships and transformed hearts in Jesus Christ are at the core of the change we seek in our community. *Kingdom chasers* will be a periodic reading about the people in the trenches of urban ministry in Los Angeles. We, Scott and Sarah, are still the directors under the leadership of our church, First Ev. Free Church of LA and Pastor Doug Moore. But we are consciously putting some new voices and faces before you in the coming months.

As newlyweds, We dreamt of seeing a new generation of urban leaders being nurtured in the Nehemiah House, our residence now for over six years. We



Sammy, 4, enjoys playing with “uncle” John, living a second year in the N House

wondered when we’d see our own students from the youth center take leadership in their community. After over eight years of investing, working in

partnership with other godly ministries, we are delighted to introduce, as it were, this new urban generation. Now that the age gap between us and the young adults we work with has widened a bit, we simply marvel at the ingenuity and conviction of these students, many of whom are less than five years out of high school.

“Mentoring youth for community transformation” is more than just a catchy phrase for us. It’s a conviction based on Jesus’ model of ministry that our family has attempted to live by even as we raise two young children. This calling has cost us at times, but the cost pales in comparison to the joy of serving Christ and the riches of life in community. We truly hope you enjoy meeting some people who are the real change-makers for this generation.

Anai: Assistant director with style by Joe McMahon, SAY Yes volunteer

Writer, student and S.A.Y. Yes! Elementary Assistant Director. That pretty much describes one of the newest members of the S.A.Y. Yes! staff, Anai Bravo. Growing up in Los Angeles since a very early age, she is a local on a mission to serve the children of Los Angeles. “I have a dream

of opening a S.A.Y. Yes! Center in my old neighborhood, south park”, the smiling 18 year old confessed the other day when I asked about her dreams and the journey that brought her to the First Evangelical Free Church. As a youth she participated in a similar program through World

Impact and their youth group. She recalls her experience working with her mentors, Susie, Tim and Robin, with enthusiasm. “Susie taught me how to be genuine,” Anai recalled. “Tim was one of the first people I really respected. I admired him as a Dad, and the way he treated

Anai, cont.



Anai just turned 18 in November!

his family," she added. Anai's positive experience with mentors has now led her to become one. Starting first as a volunteer in January of last year and now living at the Nehemiah House and being on staff, Anai recognizes the challenges her students face. Public schools, lack of encouragement or motivation, even simple things like transportation are all hurdles the kids at S.A.Y. Yes! face every day. But, being able to relate

to the kids, sharing and relating that they are not the only ones with those challenges, is one of the best parts of her work at S.A.Y. Yes! And that is something she is very thankful for. Last month she visited two of her students at schools because they received medals for academic achievement. And yet Anai claims to have learned as much from them as they have from her. With her seemingly endless

energy, Anai, like many modern 18 year olds with internet access, even finds time to share her thoughts and views at her own blog: www.anaibravo.blogspot.com. "I like raising awareness and differences," and we have no doubt she can bridge those differences with heart and smile. Anai Bravo, the beginning of a new legacy.

"I am nine and I love S.A.Y. Yes! because it's fun."



S.A.Y. Yes! and the joys of fall by Briana Gonzalez

Hi, my name is Briana. I am in fourth grade. I am nine years old and I love S.A.Y. Yes! because it's fun. We do games like tag. We study about characters in the Bible like Joseph. He forgave his brothers and that taught me that even though we can't forget we have to forgive others

because Jesus forgave us our sin. This fall, I have helped in the garden at the Nehemiah House. In the garden we planted some seeds. We looked at all the insects in the dirt. We water the garden and help it grow. My favorite memory from this fall was when we went to Ben's house. Ben is

my mentor in S.A.Y. Yes! He let us see his stuff. We played hide and go seek. Ben is a nice mentor. I had Thanksgiving dinner at Marta's house. Marta was a mentor at S.A.Y. Yes! who helped fifth graders with their homework. My favorite part of the dinner was telling stories together.

Recipes from Pico Union: Caldo



Enjoy the bounty of the season with this recipe for soup from the heart of our neighborhood. "Caldo" from Evelin Mendoza:
 1 lb. chicken parts, skinless
 12 cups of water
 1 onion, chopped
 2 cloves garlic minced
 4 corn on the cob, snapped

in half
 3 ribs of celery, chopped in large sections
 3 carrots, chopped in large sections
 6 chayote (Mexican squash), peeled and quartered
 6 potatoes, washed and quartered

Seasonings: salt pepper, bay leaf, 3 T. chicken bullion
 1-2 c. rice (optional)
 Boil chicken until done, skim fat from top of water. Add seasonings and veggies except chayote. After 15 minutes add chayote and rice. Simmer another 15 minutes. Garnish with chopped cilantro. Serves 12

Student Profile: Eric by Joel Perez Jurado, teen mentor



Eric and Tory last year at SAY Yes!

I've been working as a mentor at S.A.Y. Yes! for the past two years and mentoring can be a challenge. It has its ups and downs especially because I myself don't notice the impact that I am making in students' lives. There is one student in particular in which an impact has occurred. Just recently, the director from the center

told me that she had spoken to his neighbor who remarked she had noticed a big change in him. This past year I noticed that he wanted to hang out more often with me and other students in my tutoring group. Before, I would invite him to play basketball or attend our Sunday services but I would rarely hear a "yes." This past year he started asking, "When are we going to play basketball or go bowling?" As a result, we started hanging out more often and this student started becoming

more open to sharing his stories with me. We went bowling with my mentoring group and after each student would bowl I would hear, "Good job!" or, "Good try!" while clapping for each other. I was impressed with their attitudes. He's now been regularly attending our Sunday services not only in English, but also in Spanish as well as attending Sunday school. I am encouraged by the positive changes that have occurred in students' lives and that a mentor, such as myself, can be an instrument in such changes.

Quotes from this summer compiled by Kat Lohr, N House intern

"Studying the rich theological concepts in the Word or being inspired by the first missionary to Burma's biography mean nothing if I can't do extra dishes with a good attitude." — Bethany Carrillo, reflecting on living in the N House last year

"The minute our first day started our youth not only handled their roles exceptionally well, but they continued to love the children of Brooklyn with a passion through-out the week. What God showed me early on in the trip was that our youth have already been receiving leadership training for years. — John Tallackson, about the youth group's mission trip to NYC

"...our youth have been receiving leadership training for years."

Financial Update and Prayer Needs

Fundraising Goal for November/December

Goal/Needs:	\$40,000
Already Raised:	\$11,118
Amount Needed:	\$28,882

Thank you so much to our faithful supporters and volunteers!

As many of you know we have had to cut down the number of students we serve because of financial difficulties. Please pray with us that God would provide so that we can serve more children currently on our waiting list. Please pray also that God would renew our vision for a new season of ministry.

Ways to Give:

- Mail a check in the envelope provided
- Transfer stock
- Give online at www.evfreela.com/Donate.html

