

# Fair Chance Project

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## WALKING THE YARD



The seal of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, State of California, is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a scale of justice, a torch, and a map of California. The shield is set against a background of a landscape with mountains and water. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION" at the top and "STATE OF CALIFORNIA" at the bottom, separated by two stars.

*Fair Chance Project*

# **WALKING THE YARD**

Generated from P.V.S.P  
A- Facility

# WHO WE ARE



## Executive Body

J. Garcia, R. Bracamonte, W. Turner, C. Tlatelpa  
D. Muniz, A. Ulloa  
P.V.S.P

We are (6) youth offenders who have been incarcerated over a total of 170 years combined in the California State Prison.

Our goal is to share our experiences with the hope of reaching those going home, preparing for board, lifers and LWOPs alike.

Collectively we came together as **Leaders, Mentors, and Facilitators** to show and demonstrate that

*Change is Possible.*

Through our curriculum of educational workshops you will find direction, acceptance, healing, closure and the tools to live in a state of amends and become a productive member of society.

# **STEP 1**

1 - Week Introduction

# **STEP 2**

3 - Week Workshop - Causative Factors

# **STEP 3**

3 - Week Workshop - Internal/External Triggers

# **STEP 4**

3 - Week Workshop - Character Defects

# **STEP 5**

3 - Week Workshop - Internal/External Consequences

# **STEP 6**

3 - Week Workshop - Defining Moments/Solutions

# **STEP 7**

2 - Week Workshop - Bio Sketch/Questions

# **STEP 8**

1 - Week - Curriculum Review

# **STEP 9**

4 - Week - Mentee Presentations

# **STEP 10**

Event: Selection Ceremony/Graduation

# CURRICULUM

Our curriculum consists of a 6-month 10-step format designed by the 6 executive body members of the Walking The Yard Mentorship Program.

Each educational workshop is geared towards insight, recovery, and permanent restoration of the *mind, body, and spirit*.

All workshops are based on the facts and truths of our lives.

In this 6-month course we created a brief Bio Sketch of 5 core elements that must be understood in order to restore your humanity and find your new identity.

## DEFINITION

**Causative Factors:** This is what happens to you - it was not your fault.

Example: You were molested, born with an illness, crippled, bullied, neglected, abandoned by your parents, witnessed domestic violence or gang violence, substance abuse, etc...

**Internal/External Triggers:** A Trigger is a traumatic emotional experience that ties you to your past.

**Internal:** This is what you can control. They will be unresolved emotions you have a bad relationship with.

**External:** Will be things out of your control; people, places, and things that will stir those emotions and feelings up.

**Character Defects:** Will be anything you use in a negative way that harms you, and others and kicks God out of the equation.

**Internal/External Consequences:** These will be the results of your choices & decisions.

**Defining Moments/Solutions:** Will be a spiritual awakening that brings about change to do better & believe in yourself.

# BIO SKETCH

**Causative Factors:** I grew up in a very dysfunctional home, where I witnessed severe domestic violence, and my stepdad molested me at the age of 10. I was taught never to call the cops and show no emotion. There was constant drug abuse, criminality, alcoholism, and gangs that were dominating factors in the home. These traumas led to my...

**Internal/External Triggers:** I became emotionally illiterate and not knowing how to identify, express, vocalize or process what I was feeling. I would become confused, angry, insecure, and shut down, full of shame, and resentment towards other people and myself. Anything would trigger me. If my mom would not answer a question; I'd feel rejected. If I saw people arguing in public; I'd feel fear and panic. If I got home and it was quiet; I felt I was at fault and would be blamed for something I did not do. These unresolved emotional issues gave birth to my...

**Character Defects:** I developed negative habits and beliefs to help cope with the chaos inside me. I became passive/aggressive violent, deceitful, and selfish. I personalized everything resulting in self-destruction. I relied on my emotional reasoning to determine my course of action. Which always led to the use of power and control. These behaviors resulted in my...

**Internal/External Consequences:** Internally I formed warp beliefs like "I am not loveable and a mistake." I lost faith in God and had no spiritual principles to live by. Therefore my character defects became my moral compass. I lived in denial and acted like everything was "ok" when it wasn't. I was lost with no identity. I became a gang member, criminal, and addict. Who took what I wanted with no mercy or compassion. This led to the murder of Mr. Daniel Ed Cox 26 1/2 years ago. Along with countless other victims. This brought forth remorse and...

**Defining Moments/Solutions:** I lost my sister Laurie Soza to alcoholism at age 36. I lost 3 uncles to cirrhosis of the liver due to drug abuse. I was diagnosed with Valley Fever. I dropped out of the gang life. My wife wore my cap and gown receiving my Associate's degree. My daughter wore my cap and gown receiving my Bachelor's degree. My sister Roberta helped type and edit my 2nd Self-Help Program. These experiences caused me to take life seriously, seek help, and believe in myself.

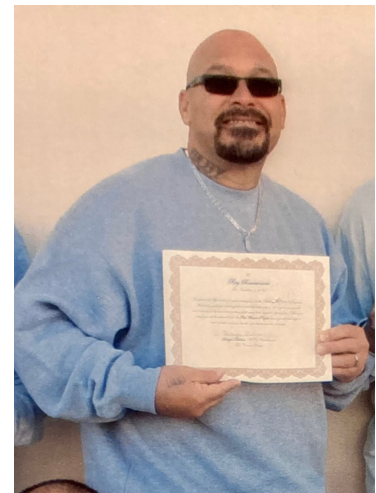
**JANUARY 2023**

created by:

Ray Bracamonte Sr. K-85547

# ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gang Member Drop Out
- G.E.D
- Certified in Janitorial
- Certified in Graphic Arts
- Associates Degree Harvest Bible University
- Bachelors Degree Harvest Bible University
- Masters Degree Harvest Bible University (1st Semester)
- Drug & Alcohol Treatment Specialist
- Business Certificate in Career Readiness Baylor University Hankamer School of Business
- Defy Ventures Graduate
- Founder of The Road to Redemption Self-Help Program
- Founder of B.I.O. Building Individual Ownership Self-Help Program.
- Co- founder of Profiles in Rehabilitation Self-Help book.
- Creator of "Who Am I" Affirmation coloring book for Angel Tree.
- Co-creator of (English/Spanish) coloring/word fill in workbook for Valley Children's Hospital
- Israelite Heritage Institute (diploma)
- Self Confrontation College course biblical counseling (1 year completion)
- Ten years CGA participant (7 years of facilitating, 5 years of sponsoring)
- Co-creator of 12 week CGA Domestic Violence workshop
- 12 Victim Awareness workshops
- 8 years AVP Facilitator
- Multiple Event organizer/donations
- Found suitable for parole 10/25/2022 after 26.5 years.



## Self Reflect with Ray.

1. How would you feel losing a sister and 3 uncles to substance abuse?
2. When you feel rejected, how does that interfere with your daily life?
3. After reading my accomplishments, do you feel that change is possible?
4. What do you think harmed Ray the most, his causative factors or character defects? Please explain.
5. What do you do when you can't trust anyone or express what you feel? Explain the end results.

# BIO SKETCH

**Causative Factors:** My name is William James Turner. I witnessed domestic violence as a child. Growing up I was forced to do crime with my dad and uncles. Violence was used to maintain order inside my house. Growing up I developed abandonment issues and felt rejected.

**Internal/External Triggers:** I dealt with low self-esteem and no self-worth/fear. I always felt no one in my family cared about me. I found it seeking acceptance in the streets. I did not know how to read or write so I was embarrassed at school, which led to me acting out/fighting, and stealing.

**External:** I grew up in an environment where people, places, and things triggered me back to my childhood. I witnessed fights, drug use, and violence. This triggered my violent father.

**Character Defects:** I used character defects such as violence, anger, isolation, and seeking acceptance, power and control to shut down my internal triggers. I rebelled, lied, cheated, and stole just to get my way. I witnessed my aunt bang her head on the side of the house; come inside and say someone attacked her. My dad and uncles ran outside to find the attacker and my aunt smiled at all the attention she received. This led me to manipulate, and feel accepted and acknowledged.

**Internal/External Consequences:** Internally I lost faith, I hardened my heart, and built a warp belief system. I never trusted people, family, or friends. I learned from my household to lie and cheat to get my way.

**External:** I joined a gang; became a criminal, and turned on my family and those I loved. This led to murdering 3 people and creating countless victims.

**Defining Moments/Solutions:** My defining moment came in increments. First I lost my grandma who raised me. This stirred up emotions in me. I began to donate my artwork and was recognized for it. This built up my confidence. In 2008 I dropped out of gangs, it was a slow process. In 2012 my father passed away. I began to take life more seriously. 3 1/2 years ago I was granted a level 3 override transfer from the captain and assistant warden at H.D.S.P. they reviewed my file and said they were proud I had changed and I earned a level 3 override.

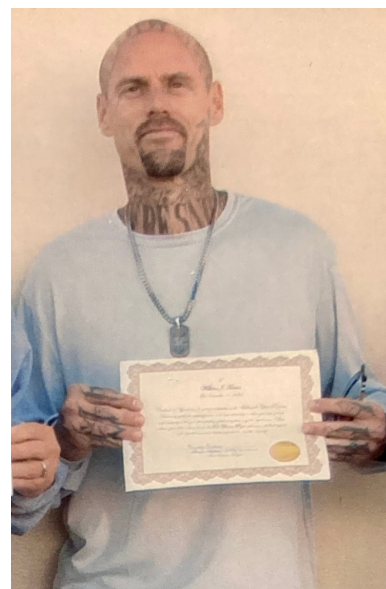
**JANUARY 2023**

created by:

William James Turner K-15158

# ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gang Member Drop Out
- G.E.D.
- College
- GOGI Life Coach
- Project Rebound
- AA/NA
- Autobody / Welding
- Painting & Refinishing
- Yearly Donor to St. Judes
- Posse Solutions "Victim Awareness"
- Freedom from Fear
- People & Stories
- From Inside Out
- Victims Impact
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Project
- Drew & donated Children's coloring book to Valley Children's Hospital
- Lifers Group
- Growing up Male
- Inside Out Writers
- Angel Tree
- Walking The Yard





## Self Reflect with William

1. How do you deal with anger?

2. As a youth, has a family member or friend ever asked you to break the law with them? Please explain.

3. How would your family or friends describe your character defects?

4. How do you live with taking another person's life?

5. Do you think you deserve a 2nd chance? Explain why.

## BIO SKETCH

**Causative Factors:** I grew up in a broken home where my father abused my mother. This led to divorce which caused me to feel unloved and insignificant. I was spoiled but never disciplined, I lacked parental supervision. My father and uncles were gang members who abused drugs. At 14 I began to smoke weed with my dad.

**Internal/External Triggers:** When I would see families together this triggered emotions like shame, anger resentment, which caused me to act out. Weed was always a trigger if I smelled it or saw anyone smoking. I had to smoke because it made me feel closer to my dad.

**Character Defects:** In time I became destructive in my thoughts, speech, and actions. I felt like no one cared, so why should I? My resentment turned into selfishness and violence. I was impulsive, and my need for power and control guided my decision-making.

**Consequences:** I developed trust issues and tested every one to see if they loved me. I was cold-hearted and did not care about the consequences. I could never take advice or seek help, this kept me isolated for decades. Murder and prison were inevitable.

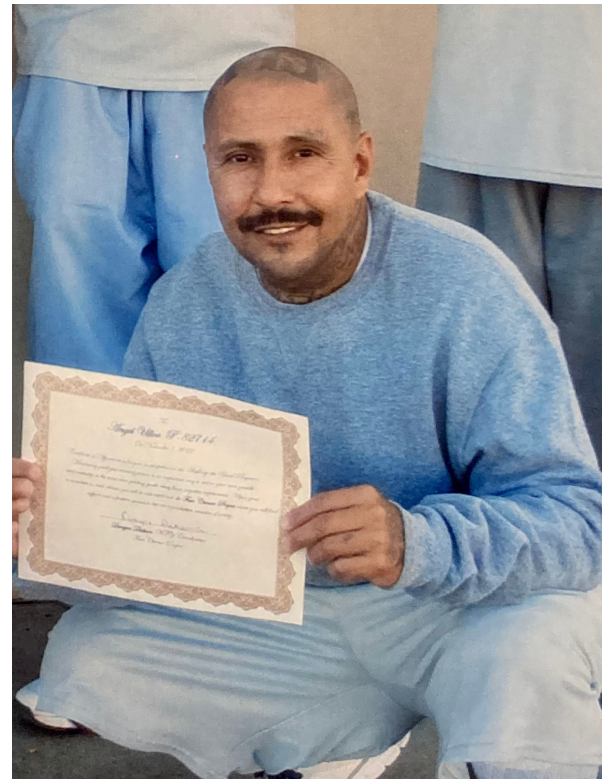
**Defining Moments/Solutions:** My father brought my daughters to visit me every month. Seeing their bond began the healing process. When my father died in 2017 I experienced a hurt I never felt before. This allowed me to feel remorse, compassion and empathy for my victim Mark Lin and his family. This led me to drop out, seek help and work towards making amends.

**JANUARY 2023**

created by:  
Angel Ulloa P-82714

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gang Member Drop Out
- Lifers Group
- AVP
- AA
- Life Cycle/Juvenile Diversion
- GED
- CRT/Microsoft Digital Literacy
- Kairos
- Prep Anger Management
- Prep Victim Awareness
- Mentor/Walking the Yard
- Project Rebound



## Self Reflect with Angel

1. What caused me to feel unloved?
2. When I saw families together what emotions were triggered?
3. What character defects led to your life crime?
4. Do you think your sentence was fair?
5. Is making amends a part of your solution? Explain.

## BIO SKETCH

**Causitive Factors:** My name is Delfino Muniz. I've been incarcerated for 31 years. I grew up in a generation where my dad, uncles, and grandfather were alcoholics. When my father was drunk he would become angry and violent. At times he would punch and kick me. I was raised with no structure, discipline, or direction. My outside environment in Compton California was infested with drugs, gangs, racial tension, and police brutality.

**Internal/External Triggers:** When I was left alone with no affection from my parents the loneliness, rejection, and frustration would trigger me and cause me to doubt my existence in the home or in the world. Externally whenever I witnessed others outside the home, at school, or at a family gathering began to drink and raise their voice this would trigger me to my dad, uncles, and grandfather leaving me in the flight or fight mode.

**Character Defects:** I chose to embrace violence to settle my problems. I created dangerous loyalties to feel accepted. I developed low self-esteem and self-hate. I used these character defects throughout my life to gain power and control. These character defects were a result of my new identity.

**Internal/External Consequences:** Internally I was lost, lonely, and refused to seek help, my heart also became hard and callous. I could not hide these internal hurts. Eventually, I began creating victims with my family, and society which ultimately resulted in the murder of Mr. Leo Patrie.

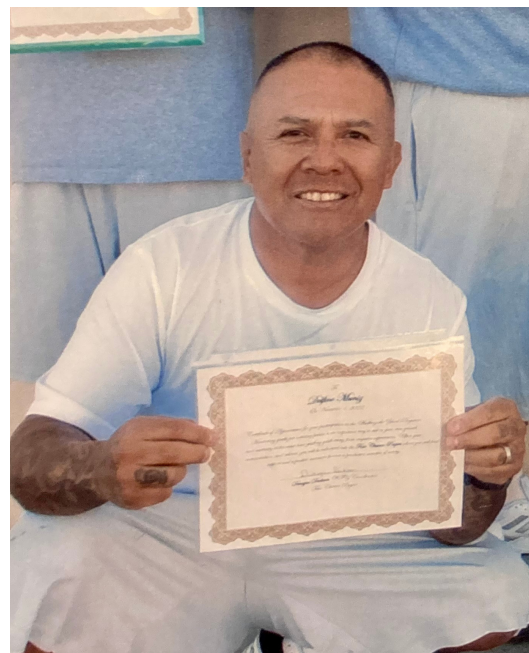
**Defining Moments/Solutions:** Being in solitary confinement for 15 years left me with time to reflect upon my life and all the people I hurt. Not talking to my daughters for over a decade began to break me. Losing my uncle Lorenzo and grandfather broke me. My father being diagnosed with cancer, my mother having a heart attack, and my older sister getting really sick broke me. Having grandkids and not being able to know them broke me as well. These were my reasons for dropping out of a gang. I began to seek help by participating in rehabilitation courses, reaching out to organizations, becoming a mentor, and doing daily prayers.

**JANUARY 2023**

created by:  
Delfino Muniz H-43407

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gang Member Drop Out
- Computer Literacy Program
- G.E.D
- Alternative to Violence program (AVP) Basic and Advanced
- Substance Abuse Workshop part 1, 2 and 3
- Anger Management Workshop
- Depression Workshop
- Path to Self Forgiveness Workshop
- Anxiety Workshop
- Letter Writing to Struggling Youth
- GOGI Anger Management Course
- GOGI Self Improvement Course
- GOGI leadership 2017
- Member of F.U.E.L Families United to End Life Without the Possibility of Parole.
- Facility Maintenance Plummer
- Chairmen of Walking the Yard Mentor Program.



## Self Reflect with Delfino

1. Have you ever suffered abuse from your father or someone you loved? Please explain how that affected you.
2. Name an internal & external trigger due to abuse.
3. How has seeking acceptance destroyed your life?
4. What was the harm & consequence of your crime?
5. What was your 1st defining moment towards your change? Please explain.

# BIO SKETCH

**Causative Factors:** As a child, my father was a raging alcoholic who used violence to maintain order. There was a lot of domestic violence between my father and mother. At age 10 my dad abandoned the family out of nowhere. My mother continued the abuse towards my brother and I. My mom was always at work for long periods of time; leaving us unsupervised. This neglect opened the door for us to explore outside negative influences.

**Internal/External Triggers:** Never having supervision I felt lonely, boredom, and a sense of emptiness. I felt the need to fill the void with drugs and alcohol to drown out the pain whenever I felt rejected, not having a voice or appreciated. I sought out acceptance from negative people at school and in the neighborhood.

**Character Defects:** My defects of character of resentment, anger, greed, and pride made it easier to face each day. As I got older my defects of character grew and got worse. For example, I used violence as a means of communication and I manipulated those I loved and liked to get what I wanted.

**Internal/External Consequences:** Internally I stopped believing in myself or my future to become productive. With this outlook on life, I got tattoos and became a drug addict resulting in Hepatitis C. I pushed away all my family and friends; creating multiple victims, and the murder of Roy Villa.

**Defining Moments/Solutions:** Getting stabbed by those whom I thought were my friends opened my eyes to drop out. Being celled up with my brother and watching him parole, discharge his number, find religion and maintain a job for 5 years gave me hope for the first time that change is possible. Seeing my mom and watching her cry at visit caused me to want to be a better son and person. I began to seek out people on the yard who were in programs such as GOGI, AVP, and CGA. I found a sponsor and began to address my issues.

After 25 years; on December 15, 2022 I was found suitable for parole.

**JANUARY 2023**

created by:  
Chris Tlatelpa P-48250

# ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gang Member Drop Out
- Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous/Facilitator
- GOGI
- Victims Impact
- Truly Redefine Yourself (T.R.Y)
- Criminon
- Pledge For Peace
- Walking The Yard
- A.V.P. Alternative to Violence
- G.E.D.
- Letters for Struggling Youth
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Art Project
- St. Judes Childrens research Hospital Donation Drive
- (C.G.A) Criminal Thinking Workshop
- (C.G.A) Roots of our Criminality Workshop
- 12/15/2022 Found suitable for parole



## Self Reflect with Chris

1. Does violence solve a problem?

2. How do you feel when you see your mom & dad cry? Does it help you with wanting to change?

3. How has witnessing domestic violence influenced your decision making?

4. What have you done for your family that you are proud of?

5. What do you miss about being a gang member?

## BIO SKETCH

**Causative Factors:** My name is Joaquin Garcia. I was born in the city of Pacoima. I was the second oldest and I would occasionally get physically beaten by my dad who was an angry drunk. At the time I believed him to be the disciplinarian, but I know now that it was this form of child abuse that caused me to rebel and thereby get involved in gangs, crime, and drugs.

**Internal/External Triggers:** As a result, I never completed a full year of school. 7th grade was the highest grade I attended. From then on I kept getting arrested ending up in Juvenile Hall and camps for long periods of time. I was impulsive and immature, I did not take into consideration the consequences of my behavior and actions toward others.

**Character Defects:** At one point in my life, I had given up on myself. In fact, my life was constantly full of failures. The consequence of low self-esteem later developed and manifested into resentment, anger & frustration. I felt extremely inadequate and out of place.

**Internal/External Consequences:** Internally I was stuck in denial. I began minimizing. I had difficulty with not knowing that my disassociation kept me trapped in the past. I exchanged my loved ones with negative and destructive people. This included me getting arrested and later taking an innocent life.

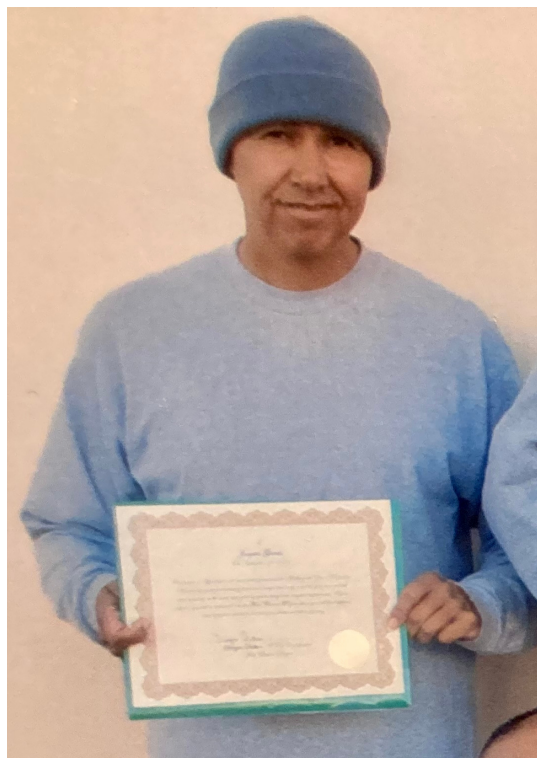
**Defining Moments/Solutions:** After sitting in solitary confinement for 19 years, I began to reflect on my life and all the pain I caused. I decided it was time to become a man and drop out. From that point on, I chose to address my distorted views, find resolve for my inner pain, make amends and give back. I have found the coping skills to sustain my recovery. Today I live by my core values of; compassion, empathy, love, and looking for the good in others.

**JANUARY 2023**

created by:  
Joaquin Garcia E-13796

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gang Member Drop Out
- I received my G.E.D.
- I received my AA Certificate
- I completed CGA
- I continued to participate in Lifers Group
- I participated in D.E.F.Y
- I graduated Denial Management
- I graduated Victims Impact
- I helped to start The Ground
- I entered Bakersfield College





## Self Reflect with Joaquin

1. If you were being physically abused, how would you feel & deal with it?

2. If you spent more time in school rather than in jail; what kind of person would you have turned out to be?

3. Have you ever felt like giving up? When and why?

4. Have you ever minimized your denial?

5. Have you ever felt inadequate and or out of place?

# WALKING THE YARD

## Bio Sketch Worksheet

Causative Factors:

Internal/External Triggers:

Character Defects:

Internal/External Consequences:

Defining Moments/Solutions:

# Notes/Questions for Mentors

On behalf of the executive body we would like to thank Mr. Dickson Sr. for extending the vision in our direction to become Mentors of Walking The Yard, and for the liberty to use our creative expressions in building material that will expand the program.

*thank  
you!*

Special thanks:

To Roberta Bracamonte - Hernandez for taking the time to edit, transcribe and format our 1st Educational Pamphlet.

