

Camp Connect Brings Separated Siblings Together



As summertime comes to a close, we relish our last remaining days of sunshine, fun with friends, and camp. A summertime staple for many families, and for Promises2Kids, Camp is a time to bring together brothers and sisters who live apart in foster care at our four-day camp.

The Thursday Club Juniors.

This year, 100 foster youth attended camp, embracing our theme of “Survivor”. Campers worked in “tribes” to compete in races, obstacle courses, and immunity challenges. With the help of some very artistic volunteers, the youth painted a mural, which was dedicated to the campsite; a lasting tribute to brothers and sisters staying connected.

Promises2Kids’ Camp Connect held its annual summer camp August 7th-10th, reconnecting brothers and sisters who often have not seen each other in several months or longer.



Since 2008, Camp Connect has been providing opportunities for separated siblings to come together in a fun and safe place. Siblings connect through activities such as horseback riding, swimming, music therapy, zip-lining, and more. Camp provides these children with an environment of fun, comfort and safety, allowing them for a short time to set aside their trauma and experience the joy of being a kid. For some of our youth, Camp Connect is the only time they see their brother or sister.

Additional day activities are provided throughout the year for these children, which for 2014 are made possible by

On our final night during the talent show, a teen youth stepped up on stage and announced it had been two years since he last saw his brothers, and he came to camp afraid his brothers had forgotten him. He called his brothers on stage and they hugged, then together with their tribe they sang the song “Roar”. Thanks to Camp Connect, they know it won’t be long before they come together again.

This year’s Summer Camp was underwritten by Kevin Prior and ICW Group. Thank you for making this possible for so many children.



Message from the CEO...

Too often we hesitate to help those in need. We turn away from the struggles of others because we think we cannot

do enough. But what we fail to realize is that to others, even a seemingly tiny gesture can mean the world. This is especially true for the foster youth we serve, who may not know what it's like to be put first, to be the top priority.

When dozens of volunteers come to Camp Connect and devote their time, our youth experience the kind of family togetherness they often only dream of.

When students are treated to a back-to-school shopping spree, where they can get the technology, supplies, and stylish clothes to go start the school year with confidence, they know that the community cares about their success.

When Promises2Kids staff take students on an exciting college tour to prepare them for the next chapter of their life, they know they have found the family they need to help them succeed and thrive.

When generous community support allows us to expand the Guardian Scholars program from 50 to 100 students a year ahead of schedule, our students know that we will all join together to go above and beyond to give them a brighter future.

This year, as the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center celebrates it's 20th anniversary, we remember the 50,000 children that have found a comforting haven there. Because of this unique environment, foster children throughout San Diego know that there will always be a safe place for them.

While it is easy to look at the challenges foster youth face and feel hopeless, to see their problems as insurmountable, I know that the smallest efforts can mean the world to them. I know that when we all combine our efforts, we can help these children turn a past of abuse and neglect into a future of triumph and success.

I thank you for your continued dedication to our mission to *create a brighter future for foster children*®.

Tonya L. Torosian, MSW, CFRE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

Deborah Marengo
Chair
Marengo Morton Architects
Vice President

Dan Gatto
Vice Chair
Gatto, Pope & Walwick, LLP
Founding Partner

Michael Penley
Secretary
Attorney At Law

Steve Bond
Treasurer
Community Volunteer

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Glen Freter
Encore Capital Group, Inc.
Vice President-Controller

Steffan Gibbs
All-Pro Bail Bonds, Inc.
CEO/President

Eric Haskel
Perella Weinberg Partners

Anne Haule
Scripps Health
Legal Advisor

Tana Lorah
Kaiser Permanente
Manager, Government & Community Relations

Robert O'Connell
Qualcomm
VP, Patent Counsel

Steve Simpson
Gurtin Fixed Income
President

Steven R. Sublett
CBIZ, Inc.
Chief Executive Officer

Tonya Torosian
Promises2Kids
Chief Executive Officer

Esteban B. Villanueva, J.D.
Giving Back Magazine
Publisher

Joan Waitt
Juniper Development, LLC
President

Gerard Widmer
Community Volunteer

Mark Zwerenz
Lorica International
Chief Executive Officer

FOUNDER EMERITUS:

Rob Butterfield
Butterfield Schechter, LLP
Partner

Renée Comeau
Community Volunteer

Norma Hirsh
Community Volunteer

EMERITUS (NON-VOTING):

Bob Duggan
Marc-Aaron Realtors

Jack Goodall
Jack-In-The-Box, Inc.
Chairman, Retired

Craig Irving
The Irving Group
Principal

Honorable Lawrence Irving
Retired

Honorable James R. Milliken
Judge of the Superior Court,
Retired

Jeannie & Arthur Rivkin
R Group Management Corp.

Promises2Kids continues to provide comfort and hope to more than 3,100 foster children in San Diego who cannot live safely at home. Each day we strive to create a brighter future for foster children in San Diego.

For the Cardinal Family, giving back comes easily, just like doing good business!



For the Cardinal family, giving back comes easily – just like doing good business.

Mike Cardinal, Chief Executive Officer of Pennant Foods Corporation – the group that operates nearly 90 Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers® restaurants across the country and 31 in San Diego – attributes the spirit of giving to Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy's.

"One of his five core values was to give back to the community. We embrace Dave's core values."

Dave Thomas's own experiences as a foster child inform the Cardinal family's work with Promises2Kids and foster children. "Dave was adopted when he was 9 or 10, so he knew the difficulty [of being in foster care]."

Over the last four years, the Cardinal family has committed themselves and their business to improving the lives of foster youth in San Diego County.

Mike, along with his daughters Nikki and Kimy, both of whom serve as marketing managers for Pennant Foods, also known as Wendy's of San Diego, believes that foster children deserve to have "close family support," which they get from Promises2Kids.

"Everything we do in the community is pretty much geared towards [foster] youth – like helping to support scholarships. It is very important to give kids a chance."

One way to give foster youth a chance is through Promises2Kids' Guardian Scholars. According to Nikki Cardinal, "Education will help set them up for life." By sponsoring a Guardian Scholars student each year, the Cardinals understand

that they are helping former foster youth develop critical thinking skills and important methods of reasoning.

The Cardinals credit Guardian Scholars Director Stephanie Ortega's compassion and patience with the success of not only the program, but also the youth: "Stephanie is so helpful. She gets all the calls from the students and she's very calm. She's comforting."

Each year, Nikki and Kimy serve on the Guardian Scholars committee, helping to determine which applicants receive scholarships. "Every time those scholarships come around," Mike exclaims, "Nikki and Kimy read through those essays [and] sometimes they're crying. Some people have had just a really tough life and we want to help as much as we can. You wish you could do more."

The Cardinal family's involvement with Promises2Kids does not end with Guardian Scholars. Each year, Wendy's of San Diego restaurants collect holiday gifts for foster children as part of the Give From Your Heart gift drive, and donations for Promises2Kids through Pennies for Prevention. The Cardinals also sponsor the Dream On Summer Concert, which is Promises2Kids' largest fundraising event.

"Pennies for Prevention and the holiday gift drive are just more ways to help," Nikki shares. "We want to be as involved as we can be."

For Nikki, it is important to acknowledge that all foster youth have a story: "They've overcome something [and] still have a positive outlook on life. They're looking to the future and trying to do better."

Mike continues, "We are blessed just to help foster children."



Promises2Kids is pleased to have such dedicated support from the Cardinal Family.

2014 Summer Concert Gala

Dream On

Kenny Loggins entertained over 600 guests at the La Jolla estate home of Joan Waitt at this year's DREAM ON Concert Gala presented by Kevin Prior and ICW Group Employees! On June 9th, 2014 we raised over \$750,000 (net) to support the over 3,100 children living in foster care in San Diego County.

After a delicious dinner prepared by the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, former foster youth and Guardian Scholar, Clifton Hidds, addressed the sold-out crowd on his success in college, the struggles he and his siblings encountered while in foster care, and how Promises2Kids helped him gain the strength and confidence he possesses today.

This annual event provides critical funding to benefit San Diego's foster children through the Guardian Scholars program, Camp Connect, and the Polinsky Children's Center.

This year was extra special as we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of our initial project; the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center. The Center began as a dream of a few, was supported by many, and has served over 50,000 children in need.

Promises2Kids brought the community together to raise \$12 million and build a place that changed the way

the community responds to children in crisis. This acclaimed Center for abused and neglected children is operated by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services that provides exemplary services to the children in need who are cared for each day at the Center.

Thank you to our Founders for their vision, and special appreciation to Supervisor Greg Cox, Jackson Goodall, Papa Doug Manchester, Jeannie & Arthur Rivkin, and Supervisor Ron Roberts for making this dream a reality.

This extraordinary evening was possible because of the gracious support of Kevin Prior and the ICW Group Employees, Joan Waitt, and other major sponsors including Southwest Airlines, Algebraix Data, Marc-Aaron Realtors, Marengo Morton Architects, Gatto Pope & Walwick LLP, SDG&E, and VIP Media Partner Ranch & Coast.

DREAM ON CHAIRS

Lynda Kerr, Jolene Perry & May Zawaideh

HONORARY CHAIRS

Jenny Craig, Deborah Marengo & Joan Waitt

HONORARY COMMITTEE:

Diane & Elliot Feuerstein Family

Brian Gunderson

John Matty

Lee & Stuart Posnok

Kevin Prior & Raegan Hillmann

Fernanda & Ralph Whitworth

Planning for the 2015 concert has begun! If you wish to be part of this signature event, contact Sandra Taylor at sandra@promises2kids.org. or 858-278-4400.

We wish to thank all donors and volunteers who made it happen. Special thanks to Rosemary-Duff Florist who created all of the floral arrangements for the event and beverage sponsors St. Petersburg Vodka, Stone Brewing Company, Solar Rain, Please & Thank You, Finch's Bistro and Wine Bar, and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group.

For more photos
of the event, please visit
Promises2Kids.org

.....PRESENTING SPONSOR.....



.....PLATINUM SPONSOR.....



.....SIGNATURE SPONSOR.....



.....GOLD SPONSORS.....



.....VIP MEDIA PARTNER.....



.....SPECIAL EARRINGS.....

DESIGNED BY JOHN MATTY



JOHN MATTY CO.
PRECIOUS JEWELS



Lynda Kerr, Joan Waitt, May Zawaideh, Kenny Loggins,
Jolene Perry, Deborah Marengo



Joan Waitt, Kenny Loggins, Geniya and Papa Doug Manchester

Guardian Scholars



Junior Guardian Scholars travel to San Francisco for college tours and much more!

It has been a very busy summer for Promises2Kids and the foster youth in high school that are participating Promises2Kids' Junior Guardian Scholars. This component of Promises2Kids' Guardian Scholars works with San Diego foster youth while they are still in high school, to assist them in beating the 50% high school completion rate, and prepare them for independence, and higher education.

Our first class of Juniors, supported by a generous grant from Ashford University, graduated this year and are enrolled in community colleges and universities working on their degrees. Many of these youth were not on target to graduate high school when they enrolled in our

program, and most were uncertain about the reality that they could attend college.

As part of this program involves inspiring the youth to believe in themselves, see their future and success, Promises2Kids organized an incredible 4-day trip to tour a variety of colleges to help them assess the best fit for them, both academically and socially.

In August, thanks to Southwest Airlines, 11 Junior Guardian Scholars, 2 Promises2Kids staff, and 2 volunteer chaperones, hopped on planes to San Francisco for an educational, and very packed trip to tour a variety of colleges in Northern California.

Promises2Kids students toured colleges before, but never outside of San Diego County. The first day included many "firsts" for the students; first time on a plane, first out-of-town trip with peers, first time eating authentic Chinese food in China Town, and first time on a cable car.

Day two kicked off with the college tours

– everyone packed into a van and drove to **Sacramento State University** and **University of California, Davis**. Many, who previously thought they would never leave San Diego, envisioned themselves on these campuses.

Day three included visits to **UC Berkeley** and **San Francisco State University**. The students received personal tours and presentations from those who know what they are going through best –our Guardian Scholars- former San Diego foster youth receiving support from Promises2Kids.

The final day ended with a tour of **Stanford University**, and a special presentation and **tour of Google** before catching the flight home.

By the end, everyone was exhausted, but their horizons were expanded and dreams were limitless. Students renewed their motivation to complete high school and returned ready to start their senior year strong.

Back to School Shopping Event & Foster Youth

It's back to school time once again! We all remember the smell of new pencils and notebooks, the arduous task of choosing just the right backpack, and picking out the perfect outfit for the first day of school.



For most students, it is an exciting process. But for foster youth, it can be hard to start the school year on the right foot. Caregivers often lack the funds to give them everything they need, leaving them unprepared and feeling left out.

But thanks to the support of a generous community member, Promises2Kids is making this back-to-school season a little easier for hundreds of foster youth. Shopping events at Costco, Old Navy, and Walmart gave teens and young adults the chance to get everything they needed.

One young man and his foster mom lined up early to shop, grateful and eager to receive new clothes. When they discovered that he would actually get \$200 to shop, they were ecstatic- they thought at the most, they would be provided \$50. He was able to get several outfits to start school.

We are thrilled to create a brighter future for foster children, one school year at a time.

Thank you to each retail location for their support in making this a special event for our youth. In addition, Old Navy provided each child with 10% off of their purchases.

A.B. & JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER 20TH ANNIVERSARY

In the past 20 years, over 50,000 abused and neglected children have found shelter and safety in the Polinsky Children's Center.

As we look back during this landmark anniversary, we are both saddened that so many children have needed the center, humbled that we could be there for them, and hopeful that we can continue to support them and give them a brighter future.

The Polinsky Children's Center began as the dream of one of our founders, Norma Hirsh, who saw the tiny, outdated shelter in Hillcrest, and wanted to give abused children something better. We started fundraising in 1990, and eventually raised more than \$12 million. The Center opened its doors in 1994, and quickly became a model for other shelters nationwide. With its beautiful campus, comforting cottages, and caring staff, the center makes the best of a difficult situation.

The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency operates the Center and its highly skilled and nurturing staff cares for over a thousand children each year. With the help of Promises2Kids, the children at the Polinsky Children's Center are provided supportive services such as pet therapy, developmental screenings, pre-school, Youth2Youth peer mentoring, and health and wellness programs.

With the support of the community, we look forward to serving children in need for the next 20 years and beyond.



9400 Ruffin Court, Suite A
San Diego, CA 92123
858-278-4400

NON PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 1769
San Diego, CA

PROMISES2KIDS.ORG

Make a donation to support San Diego's foster children today!

Want to make a **POSITIVE** **DIFFERENCE** for a Foster Child?

Promises2Kids has many ways that you can make a positive impact on foster children in our community.

You can share your time, talent and treasure to benefit the over 3,100 children living in foster care in San Diego. We have volunteer opportunities and monetary donations are also critical to supporting the children. A gift of \$100 or more qualifies you as a member of the Children's Circle - a group of individuals who commit to helping foster children annually.

You can also help us brighten the holiday season for children who cannot be with their families this year. Our Holiday Gift Drive in December offers volunteer opportunities, supports company or private gift collections and you could even host an event to collect donations to support children throughout the year. To learn more about all the ways to give, visit promises2kids.org/donate or call Kirsten Running at 858-278-4400.

Fore Kids Golf Tournament

This year marked the return of the Fore Kids Golf Tournament! Nearly 90 golfers turned out for a great day of golf to benefit Promises2Kids at the La Jolla Country Club.

A fun time was had by all, with a putting contest and three separate hole-in-one contests sponsored by Maserati of San Diego. As players enjoyed the rounds, they helped raise critical funds to support San Diego foster youth. At the end of the day, guests participated in a Team Challenge as well as silent and live auctions. Guardian Scholars student Sade shared her story of her experiences in foster care and the resilience Promises2Kids helped her to find.

Special thanks to our hosts, Jeannie and Arthur Rivkin who are tireless supporters of the children we serve. In addition to the Rivkin's support, Bronze Sponsors; Pala Band of Mission Indians, Hensel Phelps, and Banc of California led the way to our raising over \$70,000. It was a very successful day, and we are looking forward to next year's tournament!

