

## It's no secret that life in the foster care system can be challenging, especially for teens who dream of going to college.

Many don't have stable, loving families to support and encourage them. Many are forced to change homes and schools again and again, making it hard to keep up with their studies. Most don't have a good role model they can turn to for advice and support, or a mentor who is committed to their success.

It's no wonder that just half of foster youth graduate from high school, only 10% will ever attend college, and just a tiny 3% of those will graduate. But despite these hardships, so many still dream of a higher education. They know how much a good education can change their lives, and they are driven to succeed. But even the smartest student can't succeed on their own. Where can they find the support they need to make their dreams a reality?

As a generous supporter of Promises2Kids, you are a member of the Children's Circle. Your support makes all the difference in the lives of foster youth in San Diego. To show our thanks, we want to share with you a few stories of how you are helping foster youth.

## That's where Promises2Kids and dedicated people like you come in.

The Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars program provides all of those things they can't find anywhere else: help to prepare for the transition to from high school to college to the real world, a mentor to guide them, and a steady team to look out for them, keep them on-track and accountable, and lift them up when they struggle.

You are at the heart of everything that we do – the partnership between our supporters and our team is the key to our success. It is so heartwarming to see so many people in our community come together to help these special students reach their goals, and we wanted to share some of their success stories.



**Stella** As a foster youth in high school, Stella faced lots of uncertainty. She didn't really know how to apply for or succeed in college, and she had no one to support or encourage her. On top of it all, she struggled with depression and self-doubt. But despite the odds against her, when Stella heard about Junior Guardian Scholars, she took a leap of faith and joined in hopes of finding her purpose.

Since 2013, Promises2Kids' Junior Guardian Scholars program has helped high-schoolers like Stella. Starting in their junior year, when there is still enough time to prepare, students get help with career assessments, SAT prep, college tours, and help navigating the complicated process of college applications.

Although Stella did well in school, she wasn't sure she would be eligible for college. Would she be accepted to a good school? How would she afford it? Where was she going to live? But the Junior Guardian Scholars team gave her the guidance and encouragement to push through the uncertainty, and she began the application process.

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# Fostering Success

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Luckily, Stella didn't have to wonder for long! This spring, she was accepted into California State University, San Marcos. Now with the help of Promises2Kids, she is getting ready to move into an on-campus dorm, and will soon transition into Promises2Kids' Guardian Scholars program. There, she will continue to receive the guidance and support she needs to make it through college. Now she can finish her senior year with confidence and excitement, knowing that she has her Guardian Scholars family there to support her.



**Mitchell** Mitchell was neglected by his family for years. He would often be left alone for days at a time, forced to fend for himself. Even in foster care, he struggled and faced uncertainty. He was shuffled around between foster parents, and faced fighting in group homes. Mitchell used his education as an escape from the harsh realities of foster care, and committed himself to school.

Mitchell was in his third year at San Diego City College when he learned about the help available through Promises2Kids' Guardian Scholars. He was accepted into the program, and his new support team went to work, helping him buckle down, study hard, and prepare to apply to San Diego State. Then, he received a crushing blow when he was denied. But the Guardian Scholars team was not about to quit, and kicked into high gear to advocate for him at the SDSU admissions office and foster care program. After many calls, Mitchell was offered admission to San Diego State.

Today, Mitchell is finishing his first year at SDSU with a 3.27 GPA, and is just one year away from earning his degree. He constantly reminds the Guardian Scholars team that their efforts not only made his own dream come true, but also helped him set an example for his own little girl.



## Have you included Promises2Kids in your estate?

To learn more about how you can make a difference, contact Andrea Muir at (858) 751-6603.

## Are you on our email list?

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Just send a quick note to:  
[info@promises2kids.org](mailto:info@promises2kids.org)

*The support and encouragement you provide makes all the difference of the lives of these youth. Thanks to you, Stella, Mitchell, and so many others like them can achieve their dreams, and are on track to joining the remarkable 80% of Guardian Scholars students who graduate from college. And better still, all of the foster youth who will follow them will see that it truly is possible, and will dare to keep on dreaming.*

*Thank you for helping make their dreams a reality. Thank you for creating a brighter future for foster children.*



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