

Celebrating 10 Years of Camp Connect

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of Promises2Kids' Camp Connect!

Camp Connect is a partnership with the County of San Diego, and was developed in response to the large number of siblings that are separated while in foster care. Nearly half of all foster youth that come into care with a brother or sister will be separated.

Together, based on a camp on the east coast, we designed Camp Connect to give foster children opportunities to reconnect with their siblings. Prior to Camp Connect these children rarely visited their brothers and sisters, sometimes going for months or years without really spending time together.



What began 10 years ago with quarterly events and a 3-day, 2-night camp serving 50 foster children, has since grown to monthly activities and an annual 4-day, 3-night summer camp in San Diego serving 250 children. Last year, as a pilot project, Camp Connect also expanded to offer a summer camp to the San Francisco Bay Area for 50 youth.

Without the dedication of our volunteers, this program would not be possible. Events are organized and executed by two employees, with the help of over 100 community volunteers every year. Promises2Kids is fortunate to have passionate and invested volunteers on our team, who truly care about foster children, enjoy spending time with them and make it known to these children that they are there for them.

Message from the CEO



Incredible progress has been made in our nearly 40 years of existence, however 2018 is perhaps one of the most important years of all; marking not one, but three critical milestones for Promises2Kids.

2018 symbolizes a year of remarkable growth. New heights were reached as

we celebrated 10 years of Camp Connect, 15 years of Guardian Scholars and held our 10th annual *Dream On* Concert Gala.

Each year, we build upon our organization's foundation and consistently grow and expand our programs to serve more foster children. Camp Connect began serving 50 foster children and today serves 250, Guardian Scholars started with 10 students and has grown to support 175, and the *Dream On* Concert Gala raised more this year than in years past.

Promises2Kids is locally funded by people in our community, just like you. From donating to volunteering, your kind actions exemplify that we live in a community of selfless individuals who are willing to unite to achieve one common goal- to *create a brighter future for foster children*.

Together, we will continue to provide the light at the end of the tunnel that every foster child longs to see. We will give them the hope, support and opportunities to overcome their past, learn from their experiences and grow to be the best versions of themselves.

YOUR commitment to foster children gives them the desire to keep going and shows them that their past does not determine their future. What YOU do does not go unnoticed and I want to THANK YOU for the difference that you are making each and every day.

Tonya L. Torosian, MSW, CFRE

Promises2Kids continues to provide comfort and hope to more than 3,000 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.

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Siblings Reconnect



Camp Connect reunites siblings year-round who have been separated in foster care. These foster children are given the opportunity to reunite through summer camp and monthly activities.

Kevin, Emma, and Chelsea were raised by their mother and father who both worked in the military. The children experienced emotional abuse from their father, who abused alcohol. In instances where their mother would intervene, their father would get upset which would then lead to physical and sexual abuse. They would try to hide in the house until their father calmed down, often times hiding in the back of a closet until the next morning.



Of the 4 years that they have been in foster care, they have been separated for 3½. The only time they see one another is at Camp Connect events.

Most recently, they reunited at a waterpark – a first for all three. They were so excited that they ran everywhere and raced from one waterslide to another. They even rushed through their lunch, so that they could go on more. Although they were sad to part ways at the end of the event, they knew it would be okay because they would soon be spending four days together at Summer Camp!

You can help send a foster child to Camp Connect by making a gift at Promises2Kids.org.

Dream On

2018 CONCERT GALA

10th Anniversary

THANK YOU for making
this our best year yet!



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An Evening To Remember



Jolene Perry, Tonya Torosian, Deborah Marengo,
Joan Waitt, Raegan Prior and Kevin Prior
(Photo Credit: Ranch & Coast Magazine)

The 10th Anniversary *Dream On* Concert Gala presented by Kevin and Raegan Prior was held on June 11th at the beautiful La Jolla estate of host Joan Waitt. More than 600 philanthropists, community members, and business leaders attended this affair with a private concert by Rob Thomas and an exquisite dinner prepared by Executive Chef Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille.

Former foster youth Kadiedra, or Dee-Dee as she likes to be called, is an amazing role model and student who shared her story of resilience, bravery, and persistence with those in attendance. At just five years old, she came into foster care and was separated from her siblings. Throughout her struggles, Dee-Dee continued to pursue her goal of higher education.



Kadiedra



Emily Waitt, Rob Thomas,
Joan Waitt and Hailey Waitt

Currently, she cares for her younger brother, all while continuing on her own educational journey in hopes of combining her love of animals with her interest in business.

Thank you to the evening's host – Joan Waitt, our presenting sponsors – Kevin and Raegan Prior; Garden Communities, Southwest Airlines – Promises2Kids' Official Airline, ESET, Jolene Perry, Blanchard, Krasner & French, Ranch and Coast Magazine, and all of our other sponsors.

Due to the overwhelming support of our generous attendees, sponsors, and volunteers, we were able to exceed our goal raising over \$1 Million for foster youth. As a result of such an overwhelming response, we decided to invest those additional funds directly into the Guardian Scholars Program. In May, we had to turn down nearly 50 youth who applied for the program but with this support, we are pleased to announce that we will clear our wait list and are welcoming those youth into the program.

A special thank you to the gala chairs, honorary chairs and committee, sponsors and board members for making this successful event possible.



Leah Koontz, Ted Martinez
and Lidia Martinez



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Digital Tablet Changes 2-Year Old's Life

Two-year old Devon was born with cerebral palsy, brain damage, and is severely visually impaired. He requires a large digital tablet for visual applications to see high contrast shapes and light patterns, however due to other medical-related expenses, a tablet was something that his current caregiver could not afford.



With the help of Promises2Kids' Something Special Fund, Devon received his own tablet. He is now able to interact with the stimulating effects of the tablet, and can continue to repeat sounds, respond to bright lights, colors,

and images. Having a large tablet is critical to his development and will be extremely life-changing.

Promises2Kids' Something Special Fund provides support for special requests, for foster children just like Devon.

You can help grant a foster child's wish today by making a gift at Promises2Kids.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Giovanna



Mentorship is a key component in the life of a young adult, helping guide and support them through the hardships of college, finding the right career, and facing life's daily challenges. For foster youth, it is even more

critical as most often, they do not have a positive adult role model they can turn to for support.

Guardian Scholar, Lahana was going through a challenging time in her life, struggling with homelessness and being laid off. This is when her mentor, Giovanna came into her life. Upon meeting in 2017, it was evident that she and Lahana would be the perfect fit. Giovanna has been a strong advocate for Lahana and has demonstrated how a strong relationship is built; lending an ear in times of need, helping Lahana fine-tune her budget, and encouraging her to have deeper connections with those who wanted to support her. Lahana and Giovanna have created an incomparable bond and enjoy spending time together.

Giovanna embodies what mentorship should be. She is very proud of Lahana and continues to provide advice and guidance as Lahana gets older and prepares for graduation and independence.

Corporate Spotlight: San Diego Padres



Since 1994, the San Diego Padres have been champions for San Diego's foster youth, providing support for the opening of the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center.

Since then, they have generously provided tickets year after year for Promises2Kids' foster children. Recently, 24 kids

from our Camp Connect program attended a Padres game at Petco Park. Many had never been to a game before and experienced this with their brothers and sisters who they are not able to live with while in foster care.

Camp Connect reunites these children each month for an activity and last month, with the support of the Padres, these children had the opportunity to spend time as a family enjoying a professional baseball game.

The Padres' support extends beyond youth outings to providing in-kind donations and assisting Promises2Kids in its community outreach efforts by hosting Promises2Kids key supporters in an ownership suite for one game every year.

Promises2Kids is grateful for our partnership with the Padres. We could not do what we do without their kindness and generosity. We are honored to have the San Diego Padres in our community and also as our Corporate Spotlight this quarter!

Honoring Graduates and Welcoming The New Class



On July 26th, we held our annual Promises2Kids' Guardian Scholars Awards Reception honoring graduates and welcoming in the new class of students. This event was hosted by Ramin Pourteymour at his beautiful La Jolla home and was the perfect setting to celebrate our youth.

Over 250 community members and youth gathered on this special occasion to honor and celebrate the 24 Guardian Scholar graduates and welcome the new class of nearly 175 youth into the Guardian Scholars family.



This fall's freshman class will include 13 alumni from our Junior Guardian Scholars program.

Promises2Kids' CEO, Tonya Torosian welcomed guests, congratulated the 2018 graduates and new students, and commended them on their accomplishments thus far.



Raul

Former Guardian Scholar, Raul gave a heartfelt speech that moved the crowd. Raul graduated in May from the University of San Diego with his Masters in Leadership Studies. He spoke about the role that Promises2Kids has played in his life over the past 6 years and the many ways he has benefited from

the program. He encouraged current Guardian Scholars to take full advantage of the resources available to them, and assured them that Promises2Kids would always be there to help and support them along their journey.

Thanks to the community's support, Promises2Kids has grown its capacity and will welcome the largest class to date. A special thank you to Guardian Scholars Partner ID Analytics and also to Mission Federal Credit Union for co-sponsoring this event.

Passionate JIMBO's Employee Encourages Customers To Be The Change

Jimbo's... Naturally! has been a proud supporter of Promises2Kids for five years. For one week each May, Jimbo's employees ask their customers to make a donation to Promises2Kids upon checking out. This year, they raised a total of \$10,023! Jimbo's employee, Kaleigh, raised an astounding amount of nearly \$1,800 – the largest raised by a single employee.

Kaleigh has worked at Jimbo's for 10 months. When she heard about Promises2Kids and what foster children go through, she knew that it was a worthy cause and that she had to help by encouraging customers to give back.

"Promises2Kids spoke to me as a great local organization helping kids who couldn't help themselves", said Kaleigh.

Thank you to Jimbo's and everyone who made a contribution. A special thank you to Kaleigh for her dedication and advocating for foster children.



JIMBO'S
...Naturally!

FORE KIDS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hosted by Jeannie & Arthur Rivkin

Monday, September 17, 2018

Come play at the prestigious La Jolla Country Club to support foster youth!

Gather your foursome to benefit Promises2Kids programs.

REGISTRATION FEES includes awards dinner

\$500 per Player | \$2,000 per Foursome

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Coach-A-Youth* Sponsor	\$10,000
Gold Sponsor	\$5,000
Host Committee	\$3,000
Silver Sponsor	\$2,500

*Coach-A-Youth is a year-round leadership program that kicks off with this tournament. As the presenting sponsor of this peer-to-peer online campaign, your company will be challenging other companies to support foster youth, by matching a portion of their donations.



Golf@Promises2Kids.org
858.751.6623
Promises2Kids.org



The Cycle of Giving Back

For over 25 years, the San Diego BOMA (Building Owners & Managers Association) has partnered with Promises2Kids on our *Give From Your Heart* holiday gift drive and Back-to-School drive.



Pat Dubert and Dennis Dubert

Foster care hits close to home for one of BOMA's Community Service Committee's co-chairs, Dennis Dubert. Dennis was raised in a home that served as a foster home to many of San Diego's foster youth. His mother Pat Dubert, is still currently a foster parent and has been a selfless provider for over 45 years, fostering over 600 children and adopting 3. It was difficult for Dennis to share his mother, but as he got older he better understood the impact that she was having on children's lives. Dennis is proud to be the co-chair and follow in his mother's footsteps.

Thank you, Dennis, for continuing your mother's support of foster youth. To make a donation to the back to school drive, you can shop online by visiting Promises2Kids' wish lists on Target, Walmart and Amazon Smile and purchasing school supplies for foster children.

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