

FULFILLING PROMISES

Dream On

Presented by
Kevin Prior and
ICW Group Employees



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REO Speedwagon rocked the night at the 5th Annual DREAM ON Summer Concert Gala presented by Kevin Prior and ICW Group Employees! On June 10, nearly \$500,000 was raised – including \$236,000 from generous supporters through Raise the Paddle - at the beautiful La Jolla estate of Joan Waitt.

After a delicious dinner prepared by the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, former foster youth and Guardian Scholar, Clifton Hidds, addressed the sold-out crowd of 580 on the hardships suffered as a foster child and how Promises2Kids helped him gain the strength and confidence he possesses today.

This annual event provides critical funding to benefit San Diego's



Kevin Prior, CEO ICW Group; Tonya Torosian, CEO Promises2Kids; Event Chairs; Joan Waitt, Deborah Marengo

5,000 foster children through the Guardian Scholars program, Camp Connect, and the Polinsky Children's Center.

This extraordinary evening was possible because of the gracious support of our Presenting Sponsor, Kevin Prior & ICW Group Employees; Joan Waitt, and dedicated sponsors including Jeannie & Arthur Rivkin, Marc-Aaron Realtors, Gatto Pope & Walwick LLP, SDG&E, and media sponsor Ranch & Coast. We

wish to thank all donors and volunteers who made it happen.

Planning for the 2014 concert has begun! If you wish to be part of this signature event contact Diane Sutherland at 858-427-1103 or diane@promises2kids.org.



Message from the CEO...

As I sit down to reflect on the last few months at Promises2Kids, the one thing that stands out to me most is the

incredible number of businesses, organizations, and individuals that have charitably stepped up to help us reach our mission of *creating a brighter future for foster children.*™

We have individuals that each month provide a donation; small or large, volunteers who donate their time, and donors that underwrite our concert or sponsor a program. **Each and every donation is a gift that shows foster youth that they are not forgotten by their San Diego community.**

I am genuinely impressed by the number of large businesses in the San Diego area, including Qualcomm, Sleep Train, Idanta Partners, and the ICW Group Employees that have stepped up to donate their time and resources. Together, we are providing the tools to these youth so they can change their lives and reach their dreams.

I hope that as you read through this newsletter you are as inspired as I am to continue to make positive changes for foster youth.

I realize that we still have a long road ahead to improve the plight of foster youth today, but I am confident that great strides are being made and hopeful that each foster youth will have a bright future.

Tonya L. Torosian, MSW, CFRE

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Promises2Kids continues to provide comfort and hope to more than 3,500 foster children in San Diego who cannot live safely at home. Each day we strive to break the cycle of child abuse in our community.

Guardian Scholars



In June, Mike and Connie Genuardi generously opened their beautiful Santaluz home to host Promises2Kids' annual Guardian Scholars Awards Reception. It was a night highlighting why Promises2Kids focuses on supporting the education of San Diego's foster youth.

Students in Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars are definitely proving the statistics for foster youth wrong. As you are probably already aware, nationally only about 50% of foster youth graduate high school and less than 3% graduate college. Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars has an 85% success rate – our students are staying in school and eventually graduating.

This year, we received over 100 qualified applications and based on our funding, we awarded 50 scholarships. Help us reach our goal of giving every San Diego foster youth the opportunity to realize their dream of higher education.

Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars is unique in that we support San Diego's foster youth with any educational dream or goal. We have students staying in San Diego to attend SDSU and UCSD; we have a student who is continuing and moving to New York to earn a Law Degree from Cornell University, and a student leaving her foster family to move to Alabama to attend Samford University. No matter their career or school choice, Promises2Kids believes in our students.

To learn more contact Stephanie Ortega, Guardian Scholars Director at Stephanie@promises2kids.org.



Meet our Graduates...

CONSTANCE graduated with a **Master's in Social Work** from the University of Phoenix and is currently working at the Polinsky Children's Center, continuing to give back.

CARMYNN graduated from University of California at San Diego and is currently in a **Master's program at UC Irvine**. She plans on becoming a high school teacher to be there for students in need, just like she experienced.

MARIA graduated from Cuyamaca Community College and is pursuing her **Bachelor's Degree at San Diego State University**; Maria dreams of becoming a lawyer.

ANTHONY graduated from Cuyamaca Community College and is pursuing his **Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology at San Diego State University**.

BRIANA graduated from **California State University at San Marcos with her Bachelor's Degree** and is currently enrolled in a **Master's in Social Work** program. Briana hopes to share her experiences and help current foster youth.

HOLLY graduated from **California State University at San Marcos with her Bachelor's Degree in accounting**. Holly secured a full-time job and received a full-ride scholarship to **Ashford University for a Master's in Business Administration**.

KELLY graduated from **Palomar Community College** and is pursuing her dream of becoming a **fashion designer**.

CLIFTON graduated from **Mesa Community College** and received a **full-ride scholarship** to continue his education at **Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa**.

DAVID graduated from **San Diego State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business** and is working full-time. David hopes to open his own automotive service center.

LORRONISHAE graduated from Palomar Community College and is continuing her education at **Texas State University, majoring in Music Education** to follow her passion for music.

ICW Group Employees are Committed to Supporting Foster Youth and Their Education!

Junior Guardian Scholars (Junior GS) is an expansion of Promises2Kids highly successful program - Guardian Scholars. Junior GS reaches out to foster youth in high school when there is still sufficient time to prepare for college.

On August 14, 2013 ICW Group hosted our Junior Guardian Scholars at their offices for a day they will not soon forget. They met with Executives who provided critical insight into the business world, planning a career, resume tips, and heard from Kevin Prior, CEO, and other

ICW Group executives who shared their insight and experiences as they built their careers. Afterwards, the Junior GS were treated to lunch. Ernest Rady, founder of American Assets and chair of the board for ICW Group, joined to also share that everyone can be successful!

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These students, who are just beginning their senior year in high school, appreciated the encouragement and advice.

The take-away messages will help them in their final year of school as they plan for and select which college they attend and start off on their careers.

ICW Group is a strong partner with Promises2Kids and plans to host another day in October for our Guardian Scholars students in col-



lege. Promises2Kids is amazed at the time, talent and financial support that ICW Group Employees have provided to Promises2Kids over the past year. They care about our kids and it is inspiring.

Over the past six months, Junior Guardian Scholars have completed SAT preparation, toured college campuses, taken career assessments, and experienced college campus living at

UCSD's Academic Connections, where they enjoyed a three-week stay in college dorms while taking a college course.

August is an exciting month for these students as they prepare to enter their senior year of high school! The Junior Guardian Scholars senior class of 2014 will benefit from college essay preparation,

college application support, financial aid workshops, and scholarship opportunities. They will even begin earning pre-college credit while participating in the University of California, San Diego's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEaM) program.

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In January 2014, Promises2Kids will welcome 10 new Junior Guardian Scholars.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and to learn more, please contact Stephanie Ortega, Guardian Scholars Director, at (858) 427-1109 or Stephanie@promises2Kids.org.

On Thursday August 1st, nearly 100 foster children reunited with their brothers and sisters at the 6th annual Camp Connect summer camp. This four-day, three-night one of a kind camp in the Julian mountains is a fun, carefree, and safe environment for siblings to connect, play and bond. Rock climbing, archery, zip-lining, and swimming are just some of the great activities.

In addition to all the adventures that take place, the youth here experience something more. Camp Connect is the only summer camp where foster youth are surrounded by peers who share similar experiences. No longer are they different; every youth at camp knows the experience of foster care. Every youth at camp knows the feeling of being separated from a sibling. This shared experience among campers provides a sense of unity and support that is difficult to find elsewhere.

CAMP CONNECT
Reach for the Stars!



The evidence becomes clear the last night of camp at the "Talent Show". A camp favorite, the auditorium is filled with joy and electricity as youth climb up on stage to share their talents and are cheered on endlessly by their fellow campers. The evening concluded with everyone joining hands and singing and dancing to the song "We Are Family". Many were in tears, kids and volunteers alike. What a magical four days. We can't wait for next year!

Promises2Kids also hosts monthly day camps for separated siblings, continuing this bonding experience and building a foundation of connectedness. Thank you to our donors for your continued support!

For information on how you can support Camp Connect, please visit our website at: www.Promises2Kids.org

Back to School Shopping Spree

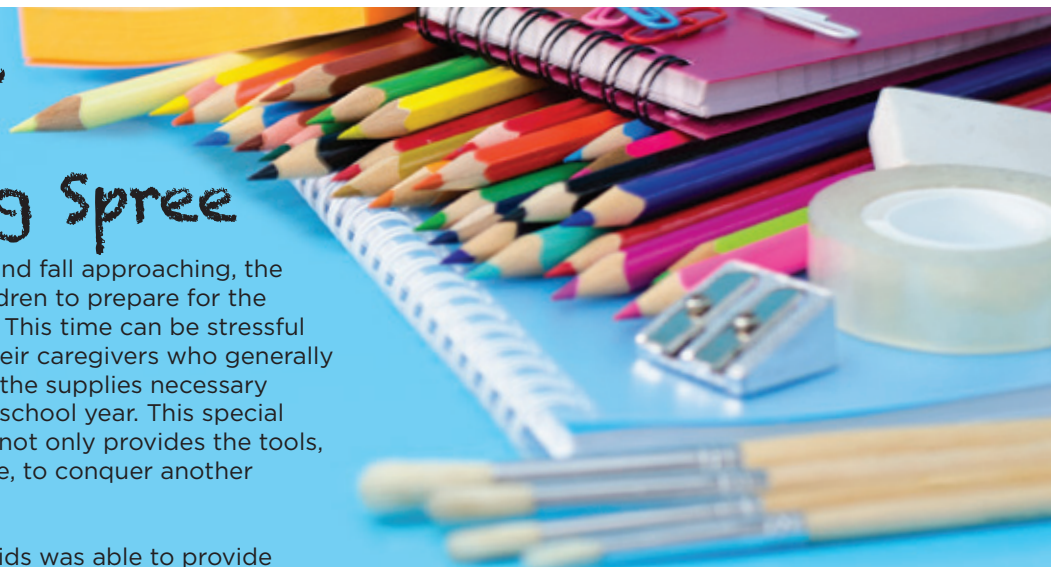
With summer ending and fall approaching, the time has come for children to prepare for the upcoming school year. This time can be stressful for foster youth and their caregivers who generally have limited access to the supplies necessary for youth to begin the school year. This special shopping opportunity not only provides the tools, but also the confidence, to conquer another school year.

In August, Promises2Kids was able to provide a unique back-to-school shopping experience for approximately 1,000 foster youth in San Diego County. Idanta Partners, led by the founder David Dunn, generously provided the funding for each child, ages 10 and up, to shop for new school supplies and clothes.

The foster youth and caregivers were overjoyed with

the opportunity to shop for clothes and school supplies that fit each child's individual personality. Upon realizing the unique nature of the Promises2Kids back-to-school shopping event one caregiver was brought to tears, overwhelmed by the generosity.

We wish every student a fun and successful school year!



Sleep Train and the Ticket to Dream Foundation Changing Lives for Our Kids

After touring the Polinsky Children's Center in August, the Ticket to Dream Foundation Board Members and Sleep Train Founder, Dale Carlsen, presented Promises2Kids with a \$50,000 contribution. These funds will support our Camp Connect and the Something Special Fund.

Our Guardian Scholars Kick-Off was held on August 15 at a local Sleep Train. Promises2Kids welcomed the students, provided an orientation to the program and then turned it over to Sleep Train for a career workshop.

Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars are like a family. Students are friends and have known each other for years. Today was a chance to catch up with the family. Not only

does Sleep Train, as a company, support foster youth nationwide, but local teams also give back in a big way. The local Sleep Train training team generously treated students to food, goodies, and a Kohl's gift card. They also presented a thorough career workshop, preparing students for work outside of school.

Before saying goodbye students shared excitement and nerves about the start of the semester; for some, the first day of college and their future. Students left knowing they had someone to reach out to when in need, something foster youth can't always say they have and something others often take for granted.

Sleep Train has impacted the lives of tens of thousands of foster children over the years and Promises2Kids is proud to be one of their partner agencies. If you are interested in supporting Promises2Kids Guardian Scholars' family, please contact Diane Sutherland at 858-427-1103 or diane@promises2kids.org.



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3 Bangle Signature Set

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Buy one today and lend a helping hand: goo.gl/OBFQat

Save the Date!

Wednesday
October 3, 5:30 pm

From Struggles to Strength
A Look into the Lives of
San Diego Foster Youth

A special reception at The University Club atop Symphony Towers. Hear about foster care experiences from a panel of individuals, including Georgette Todd, former foster youth and author of *Foster Girl*, a memoir.

\$25 registration fee includes light hors d'oeuvres and a glass of wine.

(Admission is FREE for Children's Circle members)

RSVP required on or before Oct. 2 to diane@promises2kids.org or call 858-427-1103.



THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
ATOP SYMPHONY TOWERS

In January of this year, Promises2Kids launched its new Children's Circle - a membership program that supports all of our programs and services to create a brighter future for foster youth. Promises2Kids supports children in foster care from birth to adulthood. The Children's Circle is one way for those who



wish to help a foster child achieve his or her dreams. By being a part of this very special group of dedicated supporters, you too, can stand up for foster youth by joining the Children's Circle to ensure that Promises2Kids can provide the assistance so desperately needed for San Diego's foster children.

Your generous support provides benefits (such as the lapel pin shown) that increase as your giving level increases. For more information contact: Diane Sutherland at 858-427-1103 or www.promises2kids.org/childrens-circle