

## Creating a brighter future for foster children<sup>®</sup> Fostering Success

SPRING 2018

As a dedicated supporter of Promises2Kids and a member of the Children's Circle, we want you to know how much your support has accomplished. **YOU** have changed the lives of hundreds of foster youth, like Eli and Nicolette. Because of you, they have the chance to be the best versions of themselves and live out their dreams.

## The Unbreakable Bond Between Siblings

When we first met Eli, he and his three younger sisters had just entered foster care. As of result of Eli beginning to develop aggressive and abusive behaviors towards them that mirrored the actions he saw his mother endure from her boyfriend, he was forced to live apart from his sisters and was placed in a different foster home. Imagine being separated from your siblings, the ones you always made sure were taken care of and were out of harm's way.

Eli and his sisters endured years of physical abuse and neglect from their mother's boyfriend. One evening, an argument between his mother and her boyfriend led to a physical altercation. This happened repeatedly and because of this, his mother began to abuse drugs and alcohol more frequently. It wasn't long after, that Eli and his sisters were removed from their home.



The separation caused an extreme amount of guilt and concern for Eli. He worried about his sisters daily and felt as though he had failed to protect them. Living with a very loving foster family, Eli spent time focusing on ways to improve his temper knowing how important it was to see his sisters and be a positive role model for them.

Today, Eli and his sisters attend Promises2Kids' Camp Connect. They reunite at monthly dinners and activities, in addition to seeing each other twice a month outside of the program. At these events, Eli embraces his sisters with big hugs and a huge smile. Having this opportunity has significantly helped Eli. He has since become more involved in school activities, demonstrates a more positive attitude and was the one who advocated for his sisters to attend the monthly Camp Connect events. The four of them are now in constant contact and have built a relationship stronger than ever.

## Living Out a Dream

Many young girls idolize the athletes they see on television and want to be just like them when they grow up. Eight-year-old Nicolette is one of these girls. Her dream is to be the best gymnast that she can be.

Nicolette faced many struggles as a young child. Being in the foster care system is difficult for every foster youth, especially for one so young in age. Most foster youth have that one activity that they look forward to as a way to temporarily escape the reality that they've been removed from their home. For Nicolette, that outlet is

gymnastics. Nicolette showed a real interest in learning gymnastics and wanted to attend lessons at her local YMCA. Unfortunately, her foster parent was unable to provide the funding to support this extracurricular activity. Could you imagine not being able to pursue your childhood dreams?

Your generosity is the reason why Nicolette's wish was granted and she enrolled in the YMCA's gymnastics program. An opportunity like this will allow her to develop her self-confidence, learn about team building and discover necessary social skills by interacting with peers her age. Nicolette is now on the path to becoming the kind of athlete she always admired.





The support and encouragement you provide makes all the difference in the lives of these foster youth. Thanks to you, Eli, Nicolette, and so many others like them can accomplish their goals. Thank you for helping make their dreams a reality.



Have you included Promises2Kids in your estate? To learn more about how you can make a difference, contact Emily Hassig at (858) 751-6624.

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