



FOSTERING SUCCESS

Creating a brighter future for foster children®

SPRING 2016



Connecting Siblings for the Holidays

Promises2Kids closed 2015 with our traditional Holiday Shopping event. For 10-year-old twin brothers Ethan and Josh, who live with separate foster families, the event was extra special.

The two arrived early, and lined up outside of Costco, eagerly discussing the toys they wanted to buy. After they signed in they took off, excitedly picking out gifts for one another as their foster parents tried to keep up. Although Ethan and Josh live apart, they chose toys that they could play with together. Their favorite was a kid-sized, battery operated car. For many children who grow up in the foster care system living in separate houses from your siblings is a common occurrence.



Over 500 foster youth are in the same situation as Ethan and Josh – separated from at least one of their siblings. Thanks to our Camp Connect program, they are able to spend quality time together as a family.

In January, brothers and sisters came together to enjoy an afternoon at the San Diego Zoo. Each group participated in a scavenger hunt where they explored the park and worked as a team to navigate their way through the adventure. When they got to the elephant exhibit they each made elephant faces and laughed as they blew their trunks and pretended to be elephants. It is amazing to see the children enjoying the day and building positive memories.

As the campers began to check out, a group of three boys embraced in a hug and held onto each other. The youngest told his brothers “I love you and think of you every day”. The oldest brother replied, “I love you too and I think about you all the time”. The oldest brother then told his two siblings that next month they will get to race go-carts at Boomer’s. One brother replied, “it will be more fun for me because I’m going to beat you every race”. The boys left knowing that they will be together again thanks to Camp Connect.



Welcome to the Spring Edition of *Fostering Success!*

As a valued member of Promises2Kids’ “Children’s Circle”, you receive this special publication, which shares the impact of your contributions in the lives of current and former foster youth in San Diego County. Thank You!

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Something Special for Justin

Promises2Kid's Something Special fund helped mark an important milestone for Justin who came from an abusive home and went into care at 11 years old. Few of his family members graduated from high school, and none attended college. He struggled in school and had many behavioral problems. Last year, Justin joined Promises2Kid's Junior Guardian Scholars program, where he found support and guidance.

Through the program, he attended SAT prep workshops, toured colleges in the San Francisco Bay area, participated in UCSD's Academic Connections where he took a course in Mechanical Engineering. Justin participated in community service opportunities, and attended two job shadow days to get first-hand experience of the world of work. Now a senior, he is showing great improvement, and is on track to graduate. Justin has been accepted to both Humboldt State University and SDSU, and will be the first in his family to go to college.



'Now he can go into the future proudly sporting his ring'

To mark this milestone, Justin wanted a class ring, but he couldn't quite afford it. With help from our Something Special Fund, he was able to get his class ring. Now he can go into the future proudly sporting his ring, a constant reminder to himself that he is capable of overcoming the odds stacked against him and achieving great things.



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Promises2Kids

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS A CHILDREN'S CIRCLE MEMBER. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!