

## May is National Foster Care Month

30 years ago marks the year that May was established as National Foster Care Month. Now is the time to recognize that, as individuals, we can all make a change and contribute to enhancing the lives of foster youth. It is also a time to focus on both the existing and new ways to create a brighter future for foster children who have survived experiences and faced unique challenges that can have a lifelong impact.

There are over 430,000 children in foster care nationwide; over 3,000 of whom live in San Diego County. Nearly half of those placed in foster care are separated from at least one of their siblings and go months, or even years, without seeing each other. It's something that most of us cannot even begin to fathom.

55% of former foster youth will attend college and of that, only 8% will graduate. Additionally, 47% of youth leaving foster care are unemployed, 33% of them will receive public assistance and 1 in 3 former foster youth will be homeless within two years after exiting foster care.

On top of that, it is difficult for them to maintain healthy and stable relationships. These are the staggering facts about foster youth.

Thankfully, children are resilient. More often than not, they are moved from foster home to foster home and school to school. Despite the hardships they struggle to overcome, they manage to persevere, graduate from high school, continue to challenge themselves in college and prove that their past does not determine their future.

It is imperative to acknowledge that we all play a critical role in the futures of foster youth. We must educate and inspire one another by spreading the word and raising awareness. There is no better time than right now.

We have you to thank for selflessly supporting Promises2Kids' programs and making these available to those who need it most. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of foster children.



# Message from the CEO



National Foster Care Month is a time to raise awareness about the 3,000 foster children that live right here in our own community.

There is a good possibility that you have crossed paths with one of these foster children, but were not aware

of this at the time. In fact, you may never know whether you sat beside a child at the bus stop who was removed from his parent's care, separated from his sister and was starting his first day at his third school that year, or tipped the teenage girl at your local coffee shop who is struggling to save enough money for her first year's college tuition, after overcoming nearly insurmountable odds to graduate high school.

On average, a foster child is moved 5 times before reaching age 18, this could be 5 foster families or group homes, but each time a new place with new people. Because of the abuse which resulted in their being placed in foster care, and their experiences while in care, sadly over 80% struggle with mental health challenges, most commonly depression, PTSD or ADHD.

While progress has been made to help these children, there is still an abundant amount of work to be done. Promises2Kids depends on the generosity of our community to ensure San Diego foster children are receiving the services and support they need.

By uniting and working together as a community, huge strides can be made. Together we can continue to build their confidence, give them hope, and equip them with the skills and resources to become successful adults.

Because of you, foster children can reach their fullest potential and watch their dreams turn into reality. You are the reason we can continue doing what we do. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. You help us create a brighter future for foster children and we couldn't do it without you.

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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## Show You Care and Dine Where it Matters!

In honor of National Foster Care Month and in an effort to raise awareness and funds for San Diego foster children, Promises2Kids has partnered with San Diego County restaurants for the *Foodies 4 Foster Kids* campaign. Proceeds from select items are being donated to Promises2Kids, and funds will directly benefit foster children through our programs.

Thank you to our outstanding partners who have joined us in spreading the word about foster care! And a special thank you to our Media Sponsor, Ranch & Coast Magazine, for their continued support.

You can help the 3,000 foster children in San Diego and change their lives for the better. Visit our generous partners from May 1 – 31 and show foster children that you care. Make a difference today and dine where it matters!

For more information on *Foodies 4 Foster Kids*, visit [Promises2Kids.org](http://Promises2Kids.org).



CAFE 222



Media Sponsor





# Corporate Spotlight: Farmers Insurance and The Century Club of San Diego

The Century Club of San Diego has partnered with Promises2Kids for the past six years to meet the needs of foster youth, and in the last four years, Farmers Insurance has supported Promises2Kids by providing a platform and exposure towards raising awareness for local foster youth.

Since 2014, The Century Club has selected us as a benefiting charity for Champions for Youth, their primary charitable program. Additionally, in the past three years, Farmers Insurance has provided generous financial contributions and partnered with The Century Club by hosting Junior Guardian Scholars for exclusive on-site access, teaching them about various careers essential to operating the Farmers Insurance Open – San Diego's annual PGA TOUR event.

The Century Club also supports and volunteers at several key events including our Guardian Scholars holiday party, awards reception, Dream On concert gala, FORE KIDS golf tournament and our holiday shopping events.

Without the help of community members like The Century Club and Farmers Insurance, we could not reunite separated siblings or provide necessary resources for foster youth to pursue their higher education.

We are grateful to have both of you on our team and thank you for investing in the futures of San Diego foster youth.



## Granted Wish Helps Kick Start A Career

Eighteen-year-old Amber recently started a new job which required her to have a laptop. Amber was unable to afford one on her own and looked to Promises2Kids' Something Special Fund to help grant her wish. Upon doing research, she found a laptop that best fit her needs and submitted her request to Promises2Kids. She was excited to receive our phone call and learn that she would be receiving her very own laptop. This gesture meant the world to her because she could now get a jumpstart on both her career and adulthood. It was more than just a laptop to her. This one act of kindness is life-changing for Amber.

Promises2Kids' Something Special Fund provides support for special requests like Amber's which others her age may often take for granted.

You can help grant a foster youth's wish by making a gift at [Promises2Kids.org](https://Promises2Kids.org).





# The Power of Peer Mentorship

Current Guardian Scholars and Youth2Youth Peer Mentors Brianna and Ruby help foster youth by sharing their own experiences and advice, in addition to providing the support foster youth need to overcome their struggles. Through guidance from Peer Mentors, foster youth are provided the tools they need to make decisions that will allow them to be self-sufficient and have an easier transition into adulthood.

When Brianna was first introduced to Jackie, Jackie was on mood stabilizers and into self-harm. With Brianna's help, she completed high school, now gets more visits with her son, and has a job and an apartment she can be proud of. Brianna also provided her with basic needs, household items and interview clothes. Jackie is no longer on medications and has shown great progress.

Peer Mentor Ruby plays a significant role in the life of foster youth Abigail. When they first met, Abigail refused to speak to anyone and had no interest in returning to high school. Ruby talked to her on a regular basis, offering consistent encouragement and eventually persuaded Abigail to go back to school. This decision has helped Abigail focus on her future and understand that she can do anything she sets her mind to.



*Youth2Youth Mentors Ruby and Brianna*

# Volunteer Spotlight: Ray



*Ray, Volunteer*

It all began in July of 2014 when Ray saw a news story about Promises2Kids' annual summer camp and how there was a need for more male volunteers to help reunite separated siblings. Ray was looking for a meaningful

way to give back to the community and he was immediately drawn to this call.

Ray started as a Camp Connect volunteer and has since volunteered at over 35 events, including various Junior Guardian Scholars events, the Dream On concert gala, community drives and shopping events. He most recently became a member of the Volunteer Leadership Team.

Ray is humble, easy going, dependable, and most importantly, enjoys working with foster youth and knows exactly how to make every event fun for his group, especially Camp Connect events! When asked at an event if he needed a break from the toughest group of the day, Ray replied with, "No, these kids need to see that I'm not going anywhere." This is just one of many examples where Ray has demonstrated his selflessness.

Ray exemplifies what it means to be an advocate for foster youth, a leader in our community, and how one person can positively impact the lives of many.

Ray, thank you for your commitment! It is because of volunteers like you who make it possible for us to continue serving San Diego foster youth.

You can make a change! Visit [Promises2Kids.org](https://Promises2Kids.org) or contact Lenny at [Lenny@Promises2Kids.org](mailto:Lenny@Promises2Kids.org) to become a volunteer today!

## Teaching Skills, Ensuring Stability



While providing for herself and her younger siblings, Guardian Scholar Cindy was in fear of becoming homeless as she was transitioning to live with a new roommate. This is when Promises2Kids stepped in to help her during a time of need, when she felt she had no one else to turn to.

Cindy recently shared this overwhelming situation with her program lead which resulted in creating a financial plan together. Through Promises2Kids' Guardian Scholars program, Cindy receives a scholarship, access to job opportunities, and individualized support to overcome any potential challenges she may face while pursuing her goal of higher education. With this support, she now has stable housing.

Cindy is able to refocus on school and achieve all of the amazing goals she has set for herself.

You can support a foster youth like Cindy by making a gift at [Promises2Kids.org](https://Promises2Kids.org).

## College Dream Comes True



Eighteen-year-old Cade entered foster care as a result of his mother's drug addiction and abusive relationship, ultimately leading them to homelessness.

These past struggles, in addition to the anticipation and anxiety of being accepted to the college of his dreams were very stressful.

Cade works at his local Starbucks, participates in the Associated Student Body and has worked tirelessly to maintain his 4.0 GPA. Through Junior Guardian Scholars, he had the opportunity to attend college campus tours, receive one-on-one case management support, and assistance completing college applications and SAT preparation.

His hard work paid off, and Cade was extremely excited to share the incredible news of being accepted into UCLA with Promises2Kids. Thanks to the support of people like you, he will be studying psychology, to eventually pursue a career as a Psychologist.

You can help send a foster youth to college by making a gift at [Promises2Kids.org](https://Promises2Kids.org).

## Join the 31-Day Challenge During National Foster Care Month!

Help reunite separated siblings! During May, Promises2Kids is challenging the community – that's YOU! – to raise awareness and funds to ensure that brothers and sisters separated in foster care have the opportunity to see each other. There are 3,000 foster children in San Diego, and half of them are living apart from their siblings.



Through our annual online fundraising campaign, you can help reunite foster children through Promises2Kids' Camp Connect program! Without this program, many foster children go months or even years without seeing one another.

It takes just \$2 per day to reunite a brother and sister through Promises2Kids' Camp Connect program.

What can you do?

- 1) Sign up for the 31-Day Challenge by going to [Promises2KidsChallenge.org](https://Promises2KidsChallenge.org) and spread the word.
- 2) Build a team to support multiple sibling sets. Or;
- 3) Join a fundraising team and reach even more people together!

**It's easy, fun and for a great cause!  
Join the challenge today!**



# Reconnecting Siblings One Event at a Time

The joy and happiness of reuniting siblings who have been separated from each other is incomparable to any other feeling, especially when they have been apart for what can feel like a lifetime.

Six-year-old Eric entered foster care three years ago when he was removed from his mother's care, due to neglect and her constant drug and alcohol abuse. As a result, he was separated from his siblings, including one brother who moved out of state and three younger sisters; one of which he did not know he had. Eric had not seen his siblings since December, however they were still able to connect and communicate over the phone.

With the help of Camp Connect, Eric and his sisters recently reunited at a Camp Connect dinner event and had the opportunity to spend quality time together. He was most excited to meet his youngest one-year-old sister for the very first time. They shared big hugs, laughed, told stories, and overall had an amazing time!

You can help send a foster child to a Camp Connect event by making a gift at [Promises2Kids.org](http://Promises2Kids.org).



## Local Company Encourages Community Involvement

Jimbo's...Naturally! has been a proud supporter of Promises2Kids and National Foster Care Month for five consecutive years. Jimbo's loyal customers have donated more than \$42,000, which has gone towards funding our Camp Connect, Guardian Scholars and Foster Funds programs. In addition to this, Jimbo's has also donated food for the annual Junior Guardian Scholars Thanksgiving dinner. Not only does Jimbo's support numerous non-profits, but they also support the community by providing the highest quality organic products in San Diego. They are the first San Diego retailer to offer a 100% Organic Produce department and Salad Bar. Jimbo's has not only been committed to Promises2Kids, but also to their customers, farmers and the environment. Follow Jimbo's on Instagram and like Jimbo's on Facebook @jimbosnaturally.

From May 9-16, Jimbo's will be asking their customers to make a donation to Promises2Kids. All five locations in San Diego County will be participating.

**JIMBO'S**  
*...Naturally!*

Visit [Jimbos.com](http://Jimbos.com) for a list of locations. Support your local Jimbo's today!

Our thanks go out to Jimbo's for their continued partnership and for championing Promises2Kids and San Diego foster children!



# Dream On

2018 CONCERT GALA

10th Anniversary

PRESENTED BY KEVIN & RAEGAN PRIOR

JUNE 11



PRIVATE CONCERT FEATURING  
GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING  
**ROB THOMAS**  
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Join PROMISES2KIDS for the 10th annual Dream On dinner & concert held under the stars at the La Jolla estate home of Joan Waitt, to benefit the over 3,000 foster children in our community,

## DREAM ON CHAIRS

Charo Garcia-Acevedo Deborah Marengo Jolene Perry Joan Waitt

## TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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