

Your Generosity Changes Lives

At Promises2Kids, our goal is to ensure that every foster youth knows that they have people to count on throughout their childhood and into their adult lives; people who will celebrate their achievements, but also be there when times are tough. Foster youth need opportunities to genuinely connect with people. Mentors, coaches, leaders and peers provide youth with hope and the skills to be the best versions of themselves.

Thanks to your support, foster youth are matched with mentors, exposed to new careers, learn from industry leaders, tour colleges, and are given platforms to use their voice and interact with peers with similar experiences.

Nina is a former foster youth who at the age of 11 entered foster care with her siblings as a result of abuse and neglect. They moved from home to home and were ultimately separated. Her younger siblings were adopted, but no one wanted to adopt a teenager. Nina prayed for direction, for the adoptive parents to want her too and for her biological mother to get better so the family could all be together again. Due to a closed adoption, it's been 10 years since Nina last communicated with her siblings.

When we first met Nina, she had no one, but she was hopeful that someone would come along and give her what she needed. And that's exactly what happened! Not through coincidence, but because of YOU! Nina was matched with a mentor, received tutoring, and was introduced to leaders and staff that she could count on.

She now works with foster youth who are experiencing similar situations she faced growing up. Nina will be graduating from Southwestern College with honors in psychology and her ultimate dream is to obtain her master's degree from San Diego State University.

She was able to achieve her goals because of her support system, made possible because of your kindness. Thank you for investing in foster youth! YOU are *creating a brighter future for foster children* and are changing their lives forever!



Nina

Message from the CEO



Growing up, I had a supportive family to help guide me. I knew that I could rely upon my parents, brother, extended family and my parents' friends for anything, at any time. My caring mother set boundaries, but

also encouraged us to try new things. My hardworking and well-respected father taught us the value of hard work and honesty, and that respect is earned. They emphasized the importance of volunteering, giving back to the community and treating everyone with kindness. They were my role models.

I would occasionally make the typical poor choices as a teen, but without question, my parents supported me unconditionally; giving me the kind of support that foster children do not have.

Foster children don't have someone to turn to for advice or encouragement. They don't have an adult figure who can help with a job, school or guide important decisions. They don't have someone to turn to for emotional support when they are struggling.

What they need is someone to say, "It may not seem like it now, but everything will be okay. I am here for you." We all need people to encourage us to chase our dreams and to pick us up when we fall.

YOU can be that support for a foster child.

I was fortunate to have a network of people who loved and cared for me. You may have been too. Let's share this with someone who has not been that fortunate.

Volunteer.... YOU are all they need.

Tonya Torosian, MSW, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Promises2Kids

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Siblings Reunite Thanks To Your Kindness



There is nothing more heartbreaking for a foster child than unexpectedly being separated from their brothers and sisters, unsure of when they will see them next, if ever again. Fortunately, you have helped change that! The tremendous support from people like you allows siblings to reconnect, have fun and build new memories at monthly events.

At our recent 5-day sailing camp, 14-year-old Cameron reunited with his two sisters. With this being their first time sailing, they had a difficult time controlling their Bic (a small personal sailboat) which ended up falling into the water. However, they did not give

up. They were eager to succeed and continued to motivate one another. They showed improvement daily and their excitement grew.

On the final day, foster youth had to sail their Bic to and from the beach. Cameron and his sisters sailed together, fought against the wind, laughed and cheered each other on. Not only were they proud of themselves, but they were proud of each other. They proved to themselves that they could overcome any challenge they faced. Cameron told the staff that this was the best opportunity for his family to come together, have fun and overcome a tough challenge with each other side by side.

Making Wishes Come True

Extracurricular activities significantly contribute to foster youth's development, academic performance and self-confidence. This is especially true for foster youth who often struggle in social environments and in school.



Aiden has autism spectrum disorder. He is passionate about music and enjoys playing the keyboard, which serves as his primary source of communication as he

is nonverbal. His request was to attend The Music Therapy Center of California, which provides music lessons for youth with special needs. Thanks to your generosity, we were thrilled to grant his wish!

Aiden is happier, calmer and cooperative with an increased sense of connection because of these classes. Making wishes come true for foster youth like Aiden is made possible because of your gift. Thank you!

Corporate Spotlight: First Class Packaging

Sandy Brock is the President and CEO of First Class Packaging, a company committed to providing custom packaging solutions for over 30 years. Sandy leads by example when it comes to philanthropy and since 2014, has continued to find ways for her employees to support our mission.

Her team participates in our annual holiday gift drive and other fundraising initiatives. As a major supporter of our *Champions for Youth* campaign, First Class Packaging committed funds that directly impacted foster youth in our community such as helping brothers and sisters living apart in foster care spend time together every month and supporting foster youth attain their educational goals.

Thank you to everyone at First Class Packaging for their dedication to making a difference and bettering the lives of local foster youth!



Dream On

2019 CONCERT GALA

Thank you to our
generous Sponsors
for helping make this
another amazing
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Showing You Care Turns Dreams Into Reality

June 3rd marked the 11th annual *Dream On* Concert Gala, presented by Kevin and Raegan Prior. This year, Papa Doug and Geniya Manchester hosted this event at their beautiful Foxhill Estate home in La Jolla, with more than 450 philanthropists, community members and business leaders in attendance.

The *Dream On* Concert Gala, chaired by Deborah Marengo, Jolene Perry and Joan Waite, included a delectable dinner with a special menu prepared by Executive Chef Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille, silent and live auction and a private concert by Don Felder, former member of The Eagles.



Former foster youth Tiffani shared her story of resiliency and persistence. At seven years old, she entered foster care and was separated from her siblings. Despite her struggles and everything that she had to overcome at a young age, she never let that get in the way of reaching her educational dreams.



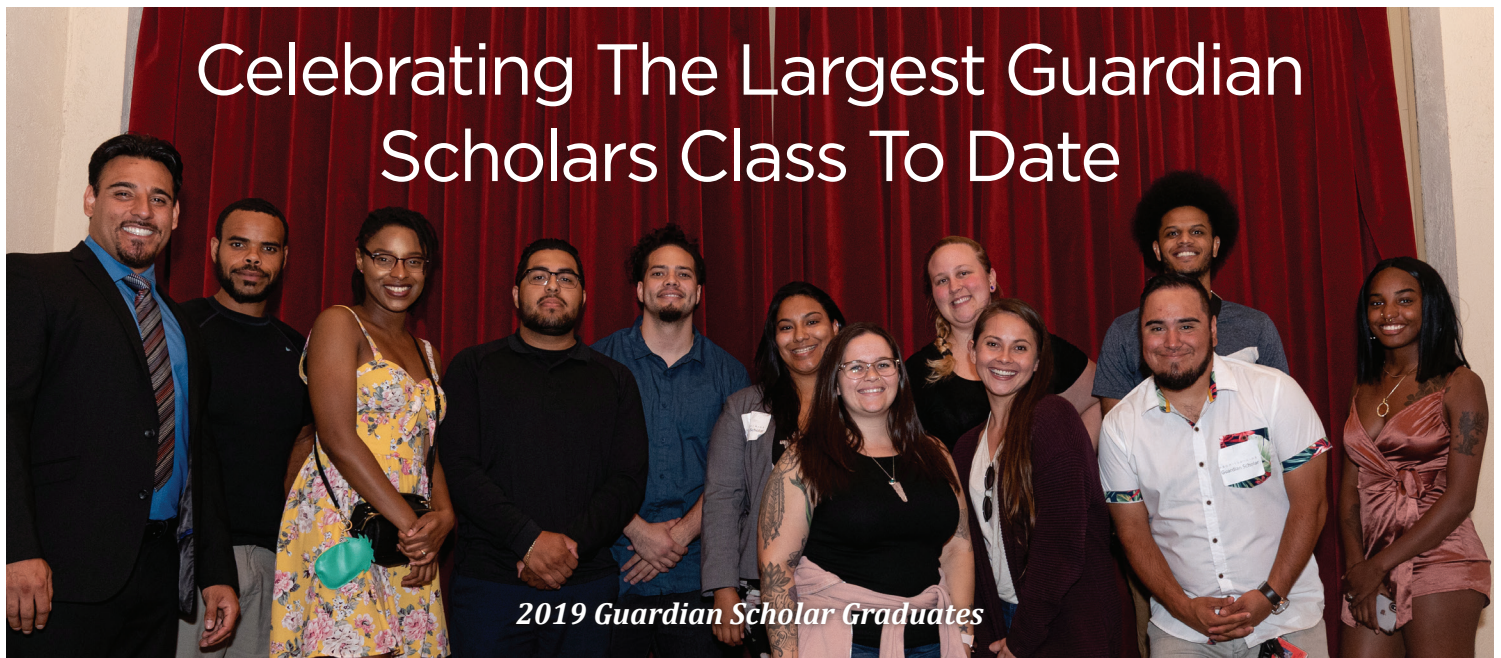
Thank you to the evening's hosts – Papa Doug and Geniya Manchester, our presenting sponsors – Kevin and Raegan Prior, Promises2Kids' Official Airline - Southwest Airlines, Madeleine Pickens, Swagg Seats, Manchester Financial Group, Jolene Perry, Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP and VIP Media Partner Ranch & Coast Magazine.



Because of the overwhelming support from generous donors like you, \$1.32 million was raised! These critical funds will give foster youth opportunities to bond with their siblings and pursue their higher education.

A special thank you to our Honorary Chairs & Host Committee; David & Susan Allred, Frederick & Irene Defesche, The Stephen and Lynne Doyle Family Foundation, Epstein Family Foundation, Papa Doug & Geniya Manchester, Jack McGrory & Una Davis and Kevin & Raegan Prior.

Celebrating The Largest Guardian Scholars Class To Date



2019 Guardian Scholar Graduates

On July 10th at the El Cortez, over 275 youth, mentors, staff and supporters gathered to celebrate 26 Guardian Scholar graduates and welcome the new class of 181 youth into the Promises2Kids' Guardian Scholars family at the annual Guardian Scholars Awards Reception.

Guardian Scholar, Joseph and Junior Guardian Scholar, Ikemba gave impactful speeches that the audience will surely not forget. Joseph recently graduated from California State University San Marcos with a Bachelors in Human Development and he will begin his Masters program in Education and Counseling at San Diego State University this fall.



Joseph and Ikemba

Ikemba is a recent graduate from Mount Miguel High School and our Juniors Program and will also be attending San Diego State University in the fall, where he will be studying Criminal Justice. He spoke of his high school experience and how he is now prepared for college after being provided with several tools and opportunities that have helped him get to where he is today.

Thanks to community support, Promises2Kids has grown its capacity and will welcome the largest class to date. A special thank you to ID Analytics for being a partner in our program!



Guardian Scholars



Tess

Volunteer Spotlight: Tess Leathers

Tess began her journey as a volunteer in 2016, when she learned about Promises2Kids at work. Not only does she volunteer at monthly Camp Connect events, but she is also on the Volunteer Leadership Team. From monthly activities and special fundraising events to community drives and assisting with SAT prep and college applications, Tess is always there for our foster youth.

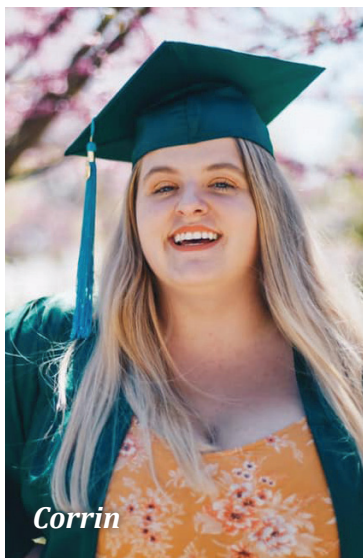
For Tess, the best part about her volunteer experience is building relationships and helping to provide opportunities for all foster youth. Tess believes that “Human kindness can transcend life’s challenges or obstacles.

Showing compassion to youth who have experienced so much in their lives can make a difference in how they react and relate to human interactions. They have shown me how appreciative and grateful they are for the activities and services that are put in place to help them succeed in life.”

Tess, thank you for showing how much you care and for volunteering over 200 hours! Your passion and dedication are the exact reasons we can continue to better children’s lives.

To become a volunteer, email Clifton@Promises2Kids.org or visit Promises2Kids.org.

Achieving Success Because Of You!



Corrin

Meet Corrin, our first Junior Guardian Scholar to graduate from college. This past June, Corrin graduated from the University of Oregon with a double major in International Studies and Journalism.

At 12 years old, Corrin entered the foster care system with her sister, ultimately moving eight times and

constantly adapting to new environments. At age 16, Corrin’s mother passed away from a drug overdose.

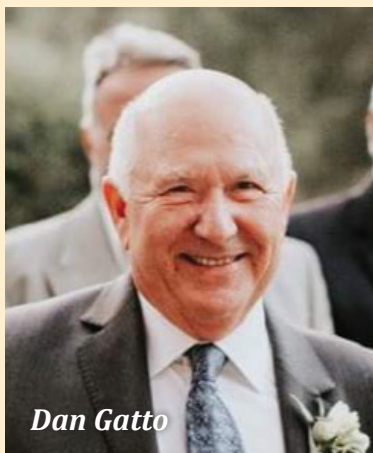
In 2012, Corrin became our first Junior Guardian Scholar, and continued on to become a Guardian Scholar in 2016, pursuing her higher educational

goals. 2016 was also the year that Corrin was involved in a life-threatening car accident, leaving her in a coma for nearly one month and resulting in multiple surgeries and delayed speech. Despite her childhood and the struggles she faced, Corrin knew that she did not want to follow in her parents’ footsteps. She knew that she would be successful if she stayed in school, so just four months after her accident she returned to her studies and was determined to graduate.

Today, Corrin shines brighter than ever and we could not be prouder! Corrin was one of 26 students selected for an internship in New York, where she learned from the best and worked alongside top journalists from the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and Buzz Feed. Corrin is the epitome of strength and resiliency.

Your commitment to foster youth helped Corrin get to where she is today. You are the reason why we can help more foster youth just like her!

Dan Gatto Memorial Scholarship



Dan Gatto

In July, former foster youth, Delilah was honored with the Dan Gatto Memorial Scholarship. Dan was a long-time champion of foster youth, former board member and supporter of Promises2Kids. He loved life. His love for life was contagious. He seemed to fill up

a room, with his laugh, the mischievous twinkle in his eye and witty sense of humor. Dan led by example and showed us how being an honest, caring, and giving person, truly makes a difference.

Dan passed away in January and we wanted to honor him with establishing this scholarship for a youth who gives back to their community and is a kind and

humble leader just as Dan was. Delilah volunteers in the community at organizations such as Helen Woodward Animal Center and with Promises' own Camp Connect. It was a perfect match, and it was extra special to have Dan's wife Stacey, daughter Kim and son-in-law Jake present to meet Delilah.

Thank you to all those who made gifts in Dan's memory. Because of you, Delilah will have the support she needs to achieve her dreams.



Gatto family with Delilah and Tonya Torosian



FORE KIDS
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 AT THE FAIRMONT GRAND DEL MAR

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This exclusive event benefits the Promises2Kids' programs that support over 3,000 foster children in San Diego County.

REGISTRATION FEES

Includes the Brighter Futures Dinner immediately following

GOLF: \$500 per player, \$2,000 per foursome
\$3,500 Host Committee

SPA: \$500 per person

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