

Maintaining Sibling Connections

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we could not host summer camp as planned. To ensure that children still had the opportunity to see each other, we changed to family visitation.

These family visits provide opportunities for siblings to reconnect one-on-one so they can maintain their bonds during this unprecedented time. Siblings in the same family, living in multiple homes or placements are all picked up in the same vehicle and a special day is planned specifically for them.

Siblings Annie (5), Angela (5), and Jonathan (11) recently enjoyed a fun-filled day at the beach. As the car drove up with Jonathan, the two sisters stood patiently on the other side of the door at their home. Once they saw him, they flew out the door and embraced him.

Upon arriving at the beach, they enjoyed a short picnic, then ran towards the water as soon as they could. Jonathan got in waist deep, just a bit farther out than the girls. They did not take their eyes off of him and when he ran

back to them, they gave each other big wet hugs!

Ice cream was next on the list and Jonathan read his sisters all of the flavors so they could pick their favorite one. After they enjoyed their ice cream, Annie yelled, "This is the best day ever!"

Departures are always difficult, and Annie and Angela did not want their brother to go. The moment the car was parked, the girls unbuckled, and hugged him to the point that he could not move. The group hug transferred outside the car, and with one final squeeze, Jonathan walked away with his caregiver.

We plan to host our 12th annual camp in November when foster children will have the opportunity to create new memories, as they enjoy a variety of activities that include swimming, zip lining, wall climbing,

horseback riding and more.

Your generosity makes all of this possible...
THANK YOU!



Message from the CEO



The past several months have been challenging for all, especially for foster youth. As we transition during these ever changing times and carefully navigate unfamiliar territory, please remember

how difficult this time is for foster youth. For many, we are their only support system, so it is even more crucial that we visit and check in with them often.

We continue to follow guidelines related to Covid-19 and our top priority is the safety, health and wellbeing of those we serve and our staff. Thankfully we have been able to maintain the essential services we provide to San Diego's foster youth.

More than 75% of Guardian Scholars lost their jobs or had a severe reduction in hours, making it increasingly difficult to afford basic living expenses. We've taken action to ensure that foster youth are not forgotten. From providing masks, gift cards, and gap funding, to making sure that extra resources are available for those experiencing mental health issues and modifying our Camp Connect model so siblings can still see each other; our goal is to provide stability. We anticipate that these current needs will only grow over time, in addition to the need for more tutors as a result of online learning, and additional gap funding if businesses remain closed, and foster youth remain jobless.

I am continuously moved by our community coming together during this time of uncertainty. Everything we've done thus far has been possible because of YOUR support. I want to say a special thank you to the San Diego Foundation for selecting us as a grant recipient and a few key community members who went above and beyond for our foster youth. If there were ever a time to uplift each other and the most vulnerable individuals in our community, the time is NOW.

Please consider making an additional gift during this unusual time to show foster youth that we're still here and that we are all in this together.

Tonya Torosian, MSW, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Promises2Kids

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Congratulations Class of 2020!

For most graduates, a typical graduation involves walking the stage in front of hundreds or even thousands of their peers and getting together with family and friends to celebrate years of hard work and dedication finally coming to fruition.

2020 may have thrown the world for a loop, but that didn't stop us from celebrating the 35 Guardian Scholars who graduated. A celebration was necessary! Staff, board members, volunteers, and mentors honored this major milestone with a surprise caravan parade complete with cards, gift cards, cakes, leis, and no shortage of signs, honks, and loud cheers!

Thank you to those who participated in the caravan and to all of our supporters who have been rooting for the success of these amazing grads. Your support has helped them complete their education. A special thank you to *Ticket to Dream Foundation* for the graduation cards and gift cards.

We are incredibly proud of each students' accomplishments and wish each one the utmost success in all of their future endeavors! Congrats to the graduating class of 2020!

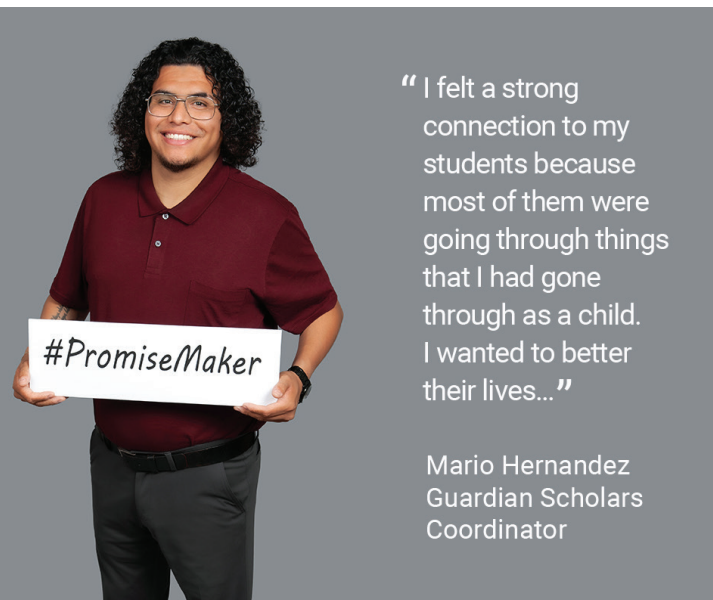


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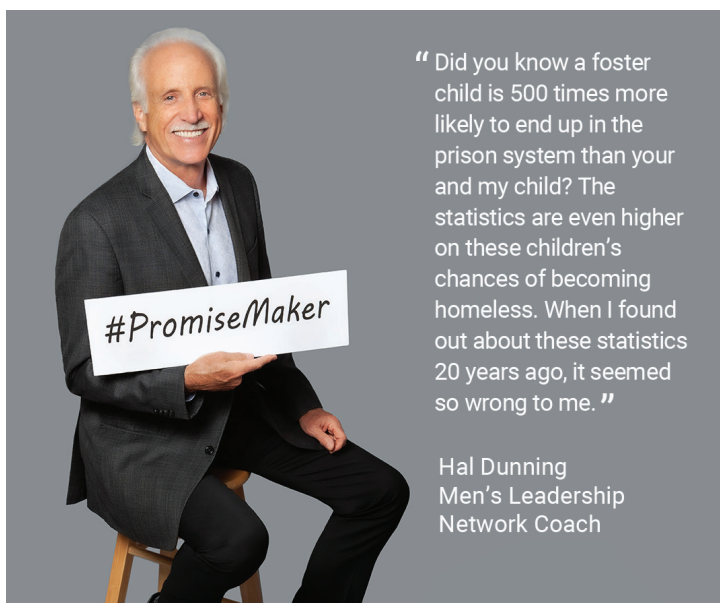
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“I felt a strong connection to my students because most of them were going through things that I had gone through as a child. I wanted to better their lives...”

Mario Hernandez
Guardian Scholars
Coordinator



“Did you know a foster child is 500 times more likely to end up in the prison system than your and my child? The statistics are even higher on these children's chances of becoming homeless. When I found out about these statistics 20 years ago, it seemed so wrong to me.”

Hal Dunning
Men's Leadership
Network Coach



“I want to create light and purpose for every youth who was told they couldn't achieve something.”

Rashida Elimu
Program Manager



“This is not just my job; this is my purpose - I wake up every day immensely grateful and deeply satisfied that I am a part of an amazing organization that puts foster youth on a pedestal of deep worth and greatness which each of them truly deserves.”

Rose Spellman
Guardian Scholars
Coordinator



“The thought of children being abandoned and not having the tools to grow while they are in their developmental years does not sit well with me. That is why I choose to give back to foster youth.”

Bobby Graham
Men's Leadership
Network Coach

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