

FULFILLING PROMISES

Creating a brighter future for foster children®

Youth Find Their Personal Style

Everyone has their own personal style which reflects who they are and how they want to show up to others. With the help of Nordstrom, 24 students were able to help discover and define themselves through fashion.

The students had the opportunity to visit Nordstrom Fashion Valley, for a personal styling session to find their own personal style and to help prepare them for their transition to the workforce and adulthood.



Nordstrom has been a longtime champion and supporter of foster children and, once again, stepped up by kindly donating a detailed in-person private experience for these deserving, driven, and hardworking students.

Thanks to the bighearted community members, Promises2Kids was able to cover the cost of both a professional outfit for interviews and formal occasions, as well as a business casual outfit to prepare students for the workforce.

This experience and their new stylish outfits provided an extra boost of confidence, and students now feel more prepared to make a positive first impression at future job interviews.

Thank you all!

I walked around my campus at San Diego State University in my professional attire the day I returned from Nordstrom; I felt an increase of self-importance, and mirrored the idea, thinking everyone was in admiration of me. Interestingly, in my head I found myself attempting to show that it's me! As if people did not recognize me (in a good way).

I am extremely grateful for all the work you all put into me. I gained so much value from the experience and the final project of a changed person - of me. Thank you for being my heroes.

Sincerely,

Student, San Diego State University

Message from the CEO



As I reflect on this past year, I am tremendously grateful for everything that our community has done to help foster children in need. While we all tried to figure out how to personally navigate the changes that Covid-19 brought on, the outpour of generosity from

our supporters continued to amaze me. You all stepped up when foster children needed you most.

What was most critical, and still is through all of this, is a sense of connection; connection between us and our supporters, volunteers, team members, but most importantly the connection with our youth.

Although it may have looked different this past year, with your support we were able to find safe and creative ways to ensure that youth felt connected... to us, to each other, and to their siblings.

May is National Foster Care month – a time to reflect and look back at all that we have accomplished together to support foster children; however, it's also a time for us to reevaluate to see what more we can do. There is still a long road ahead of us.

Now that we are slowly coming out of Covid-19 and starting to see the restrictions change, I am cautiously optimistic. I am excited to have more in person activities and events, but approaching them with the safety of our youth and supporters top of mind.

YES!!! We are having our *Dream On* concert in person! Stay tuned!

Tonya Torosian, MSW, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Promises2Kids

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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Your Kindness Helps Connect Siblings



Promises2Kids continues to find innovative ways to ensure that siblings living apart in foster care are able to stay connected and create new memories. With the help of their caregivers, who value and prioritize these relationships, brothers and sisters have been able to maintain their bonds.

Siblings Lucy (13), Jacob (11), Vicky (9), Jeremy (7), and Vivian (5) recently enjoyed a day at the park in each other's company. They talked amongst each other about not wanting to wear their helmets and while walking to the park, the eldest brother, Jacob, decided to grab a scooter and lead the way. Soon all of his siblings followed suit, hopped on a scooter, and put on their helmets. The youngest sibling, Vivian, was too afraid to get on a scooter alone. However, with her sibling's encouragement and support, she was soon riding her scooter alongside her brothers and sisters.

Once at the park, they rode their scooters on the skate ramps. They were stopping themselves by jumping off the scooter, until Jacob taught them how to use their brakes.

It's moments like these that we are reminded of the impactful roles siblings take on with one another and how critical it is for siblings to remain connected. But moments like this are only possible thanks to support from people like you!

To learn how you can contribute and ensure that separated siblings will still have opportunities to reunite every month, visit www.Promises2Kids.org.

Corporate Spotlight: National Charity League

National Charity League (NCL) is a multi-generational philanthropic organization of mothers and daughters. For nearly 10 years, multiple NCL chapters have generously volunteered with Promises2Kids. The San Diego chapter has been especially active this past year; 138 mothers and daughters have volunteered a total of 1,419 hours.

Lauren Hirsh, daughter of Promises2Kids' Co-founder Norma Hirsh, is the Philanthropy Liaison at the NCL San Diego chapter. In addition to being a champion from the very beginning, going above and beyond to support foster children, Lauren also makes time to bring delicious baked goods to share with Promises2Kids staff.

Over the years, mother-and-daughter teams of NCL have made bright and cozy blankets, picture frames for separated siblings, flower pot kits with beautiful notes, Easter and Valentine's Day gifts for Guardian Scholars care packages and so much more! They have created materials for our annual *Dream On* concert gala and have volunteered at events, such as our holiday party and *Give From Your Heart* holiday gift drive. From organizing, setting up and breaking down, these incredible volunteers have done it all!

Promises2Kids is grateful for their ongoing dedication to making foster youth of all ages feel loved and cherished! Without the help from volunteers like the amazing mothers and daughters from NCL, our work to help foster youth would not be possible. Thank you NCL!

 *National Charity League, Inc.®*

Meet Guardian Scholar, Makayla!



As long as I can remember, I was always defined as a “foster child,” besides all of the other names that came with that territory. I always had to be emotionally mature and take on the responsibilities of an adult, looking out for my siblings and doing everything possible to keep my foster mother happy so we would not be split up.

At 16, I became a mother. I realized that I would have to work even harder to not become the names that would play in my head from past failures. I was constantly put down by people who were supposed to be taking care of me and said they loved me. I began to believe the accusations that I was going to be just like my mother on drugs, or my father who hurt his only other child.

I can't erase the thoughts and memories of my past, but I know that I am above loneliness, depression, and anxiety. I was silenced for so long and just trying to get by. My turbulent childhood never allowed me the time to figure out my own identity, but that is something I am learning more about every day.

Thanks to Promises2Kids I feel like I have loving family support. They have been my light in the dark, and I am grateful for the support beyond my schooling, and the different opportunities for me and my children that would not have been there for me while I was navigating my life as a single mother.

I am proud to say that I will graduate next month from San Diego Mesa Community College and will transfer to San Diego State in the fall to be a better me.

- Makayla

Gaining Confidence Thanks To You



Freya (13) is a foster youth who has suffered neglect and rejection that no child should ever have to experience. After her parents abandoned her, she moved around from home to home, not knowing what stability was. She lived with different aunts, uncles, and grandparents, all of whom decided that they didn't want to take care of her. Eventually, no one else in her family was willing to take her in, resulting in her being turned over to Child Welfare Services.

Freya struggles with self-worth and confidence. She is eager to please those around her and is often afraid that she will be sent away again.

When she was first placed with her foster parents, she expressed an interest in the Scouts BSA program. After attending the day portion of a camping troop for the local all-girls BSA troop, she loved it!

Thanks to generous supporters, Promises2Kids was able to buy her a tent, hiking boots, camping and canoeing gear, and more so she could participate in the troop!

Freya still struggles to believe that others could love her, but this experience and the help she received has begun to change that. Slowly but surely, she is coming out of her shell and forming bonds with girls in her troop. She continues to gain confidence in Scouts BSA, thanks to help from people like you!

PROMISES2KIDS



FOODIES



4FosterKids



SUPPORT FOSTER CHILDREN & RESTAURANTS

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE for San Diego foster children through Guardian Scholars, Camp Connect, Foster Funds & the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center

MAY is NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

YOU can help the 3,000 children in foster care

SUPPORT OUR GENEROUS RESTAURANT PARTNERS MAY 1-31



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Brighter Futures Ball Drop



This June, we are hosting our annual *Brighter Futures Ball Drop*.

You will have the opportunity to purchase golf balls for a chance to win a \$2,500 CASH PRIZE, sponsored by Carmel Mountain Preschool.

For as little as \$25 per golf ball, you could be our lucky winner! Golf balls will be available as follows: 1 for \$25, 5 for \$100 and 30 for \$500.

Numbered golf balls will be assigned and dropped from a helicopter, and the ball that lands in the hole or closest to the pin will win!

Proceeds will directly benefit foster children in San Diego, by connecting separated siblings in foster care, providing funds and resources for foster youth to complete their higher education, ensuring that foster children have opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities like their peers, and ensuring that there is always a place for foster children to go to where they can feel safe, cared for, and loved.

For more information, visit:
give.promises2kids.org/brighterfutures

Jolene Perry Gathers Friends to Support Foster Children



On March 27th, Jolene Perry once again welcomed guests to her stunning Rancho Santa Fe home to raise awareness and funds for foster children. She hosted an intimate 4-course

Winemaker's Dinner to benefit Promises2Kids. Guests were treated to delectable cuisine prepared by Pamplemousse Grille.

The evening featured wines from Va Piano Vineyards, and Justin Wylie shared his personal story of becoming a winemaker. Each course was perfectly paired with a signature wine and guests were delighted at each offering.

Thank you to Jolene Perry for opening up her home for this incredible evening, and for her continued support of local foster children. Because of this event and the generosity of our gracious hosts and everyone in attendance, Promises2Kids can continue offering programs to better the lives of foster youth in San Diego. We could not do what we do, if it weren't for our amazing supporters.

Education Summit

Last month, Promises2Kids hosted its 4th annual *San Diego Foster Care Education Summit*, with a focus on "Improving the Educational Outcomes for Foster Youth in a Virtual World". The event provided educators, social workers, CASA's, caregivers and foster youth, the opportunity to learn more about the impact of virtual education has had on youth and how to best support their education.

Nearly 200 attendees learned from those who have been navigating through the education system during the Covid-19 pandemic. Virtual workshops covered the impact Covid-19 has had on foster youth and their education, how to improve foster youth education, creating engaging virtual lesson plans, and more.

A special thank you to ESET – the presenting sponsor of this event, and to the San Diego County Office of Education, National University, California Coast Credit Union, GEICO and Kaiser Permanente for making this event possible!



Volunteer to Support Guardian Scholars

Volunteers play a critical role in the success of foster youth in college.

Only 10% of foster youth graduate nationwide, and 83% of our Guardian Scholars graduate because of kindhearted supporters like you!

Everyone can make a difference for students in our Guardian Scholars program. Your actions impact the futures of foster youth, who deserve the same opportunities as their peers who did not grow up in foster care.

There are several ways to get involved:

- Mentor a youth through their college career
- Serve as a Mentor to a group of Black and Latinx students looking for a way to connect with leaders who they can identify with culturally
- Volunteer at youth-facing events
- Deliver care packages
- Help with dorm move-in
- Serve as a Leadership Coach in our Men's or Women's Leadership Network group

For more information, contact Hilary Taylor at Hilary@Promises2Kids.org or at 858-751-6631.

4 for 40



May is National Foster Care Month! Help us raise awareness and funds, while honoring those who inspired or had a positive impact in your life.

Promises2Kids challenges you and 4 friends to join us in our "4 for 40" campaign, by donating \$40 on behalf of 4 people who played a significant role in your life.

Board Chair, Stephanie Brown, helped us kick off the campaign and is generously making a donation on behalf of many of her incredible mentors. Among those are her Grandpa LeRoy Brown, Mother Renea Delgado, Father Jeff Brown, Papa Doug Manchester, Monsignor Father Steve, Doug Yeaman, and numerous athletic coaches.

Will you join Stephanie and help brighten the lives of foster children? Visit give.promises2kids.org/4for40 to learn how you can show your support.



Just Launched: Promising Futures Legacy Circle

Promises2Kids is excited to have launched the *Promising Futures Legacy Circle* – a new planned giving initiative to help the community support foster children through their estate or other planned gifts.

Our first event was a webinar where expert panelists Brent L. Gastineau, Danielle C. Humphries, and Brent R. Pernicano shared their insight on "Planning Strategies for 2021." Speakers addressed how to continue providing for family, to support charity along the way, and to maximize your impact at home and in the community. Attendees learned about the new tax and financial landscape, ways to maximize our return while continuing to support our personal goals, and planning for the future through various estate planning strategies.

This event is the first of many from Promises2Kids as we not only celebrate our 40th anniversary, but also introduce our *Promising Futures Legacy Circle*. Anyone can make a gift this way and the biggest reason that individuals do so is because they have the ability to make a larger gift than they could at any one point in their lifetime.

This is an exciting opportunity for you to leave a lasting legacy by naming Promises2Kids as a beneficiary of your estate plans.

To view the webinar visit: youtube.com/Promises2Kids

For additional information about the *Promising Futures Legacy Circle*, to receive an estate planning guide, or to attend future webinars, please contact Emily Hassig at Emily@Promises2Kids.org or at 858.751.6624.



Dream On

2021 CONCERT GALA

COMING LATE
SUMMER

PRESENTED BY

Kevin & Raegan Prior

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CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

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40th Anniversary