

FULFILLING PROMISES

Creating a brighter future for foster children®

Making Memories To Last A Lifetime

While we were not able to host our traditional four-day camp due to Covid restrictions, that did not stop us from ensuring that separated siblings still had the opportunity to spend time together over a weekend full of exciting events.

From a day at a ranch in Pine Valley that included horseback riding, waterslide inflatables, an obstacle course, and more; to the ultimate carnival experience at San Dieguito County Park and Santee Lakes, complete with a face painter, magician, caricature artist, games, art and music therapy, there was no shortage of fun to be had.

Siblings encouraged each other to participate in activities and played games for each other to increase their chances of winning coveted raffle prizes.

Four sisters – Alicia (14), Sophie (12), Odessa (8) and Lexi (7) live apart in two different placements and had the best time during their carnival experience. Alicia and Sophie knew that their younger sisters wanted to win prizes by earning raffle tickets. Since they weren't the best at the carnival games, Alicia and Sophie played the games earning extra tickets for them. Odessa and Lexi won prizes during the raffle drawing and the excitement, joy and shock they expressed, made it worth it for their older sisters to see. While they all had an amazing time playing

games, their favorite part of the day was horseback riding. Odessa started off scared, but her sisters rallied around and encouraged her, as they headed out with the wrangler.

Thanks to our incredible supporters and volunteers, we were able to make all of this happen! Brothers and sisters built new memories that they will cherish forever.



Get involved! Volunteer or become a Promise Maker through a monthly gift. To learn more or make a gift today, visit: Promises2Kids.org

Message from the CEO



This year prevented us from seeing our loved ones and spending time with those we care about most. Covid-19 impacted us in ways that we couldn't have been prepared for. It tested our patience, affected our physical, emotional and mental health, and stole time that we will never get back.

Relationships were put to the test and we were reminded of the power of positive connections. While the world was ever-changing, there is one thing that didn't change – connection.

Staying connected during a time of uncertainty was key, and because of you, we were able to do just that. Siblings living apart stayed in contact through monthly one-on-one visits, caring mentors and case managers checked in with youth more than ever before, volunteers stepped up when they were needed and supporters continued to provide monetary gifts even when the country was in economic turmoil. Everyone pitched in during a time when foster youth desperately needed support, and each of you made a difference when it mattered most.

As we celebrate our 40th Anniversary this year, I am reminded of how important it is to have people like you step in for foster children who have no one else in their corner, rooting for their success. Your commitment to foster children and the work that we do does not go unnoticed, and for that, I thank you. Thank you for not forgetting about foster children, and for showing them that they have a community that cares.

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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Meet Guardian Scholar, Marquita!



When we are born, we don't get to choose our parents. However as we get older, we decide who our family will be.

During my time in care, I was in six different placements, never able to call a house a home and growing up with dyslexia, school was a constant battle. I thought my last placement was my home until I got kicked out and survival skills kicked into high gear because I was homeless.

Working just to survive was a lifestyle and going back to school seemed impossible. In the fall of 2019 I decided to give myself a fighting chance, yet when I returned it felt like I was the odd kid at school because the title "foster kid" was my identity and I didn't know how to embrace it.

Thanks to Promises2Kids I am now able to own the title "foster kid" with pride.

I got involved with the speakers bureau and am learning how to use my voice, something that will be powerful in all aspects of my life.

Promises2Kids has also supported me financially which is allowing me to prioritize school and because of that, I am currently on the Dean's list at San Diego Mesa College with a 4.0. My goal is to transfer to San Diego State University to pursue my degree in childhood development.

- Marquita

Your Generosity Changes Lives

At 4 years old, Stephen and his older brother were placed into foster care as a result of severe neglect and being deprived of food, medical care and socialization.

Stephen nearly lost his life when he arrived at Rady's Children's Hospital in an ambulance. He spent over 3 months in the hospital. His lungs and major organs were failing when he arrived, he was diagnosed with rickets and had fractures in nearly every bone in his body, due to lack of nutrition. He was in immense pain and literally "starving to death."

Stephen had never walked and was the size of an 11-month old infant. Originally wheelchair and oxygen dependent, Stephen eventually learned to walk and run. His organs have recovered and are functioning normally, and his bone fractures and joints have healed. While there are still challenges ahead, he is very bright, active, social, and remarkably coordinated considering what he has endured.

With your support, Promises2Kids purchased a new scooter for Stephen. He squealed with delight when it arrived, and was beside himself after realizing that the wheels lit up. Since riding his scooter, Stephen's balance and confidence improved significantly. He asks to ride it every day and loves showing off his scooter tricks.

You are the reason we were able to bring a smile to Stephen's face, and why he continues to smile every day when he hops onto his new scooter!





While it was a challenging year for all, including a hard-hit restaurant industry, our incredible community stepped up at a time when foster children needed them most. In honor of National Foster Care Month this past May, 23 local businesses joined forces to help support critical programs and services for foster children.

Thank you our new and returning partners, and our amazing supporters for raising over \$30,000 to help create a brighter future for foster children!

264 Fresco
Artesano Taco
Batch & Box
Broad Street Dough Co.
Canteen Coffee Roasters
Dixie Pops
Encontro North Park
Extraordinary Desserts
Firenze Trattoria
GOODONYA
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Mermaids & Cowboys
Monarch Ocean Pub
Mustangs & Burros
Park & Rec
RoVino The Foodery
Sisters Pizza
The Crack Shack
Tamarindo Del Mar
Urban Plates
Waverly

A special thank you to our Media Partner,
Ranch & Coast Magazine!

Our work is not possible without you!

Corporate Spotlight: Loan Signing System



Loan Signing System Owner Mark Wills and his business partner Roman Rosario have been dedicated supporters of Promises2Kids since 2018.

As a former foster youth himself, Mark serves as a coach and advocate for former foster youth through our Mens Leadership Network, and contributes creative

out-of-the-box ideas as a member of our PR committee. In addition to his financial support, Mark continues to inspire foster youth who meet him. He feels that as long as you believe in yourself, are resilient and don't let your story define you, you can achieve anything.

Promises2Kids is proud and grateful to have been selected as the charitable partner and beneficiary of the 2021 Loan Signing System Conference in Las Vegas this past July. Over 1,200 people attended and heard first-hand from Mark, why he and Roman are so passionate about our cause. Their support shows foster youth that people believe in them and want to invest in their futures. From this event alone, \$40,000 was raised to help meet the needs of foster youth in San Diego County.

Thank you to Loan Signing System for making a difference and showing foster youth that anything is possible with hard work and determination.



PROMISES 2 KIDS

40th Anniversary

This year, marks our 40 years of supporting San Diego's foster children.

In November we will celebrate and honor 40 Changemakers for Foster Children. Each of these community leaders has made a tremendous difference in the lives of foster children in our community.

Details of this celebration will be announced in September. To sponsor this event, contact Liz@Promises2Kids.org.

Celebrating Success, Thanks To You!



On July 14th, over 350 Guardian Scholars, mentors, donors, sponsors and board members attended our annual Guardian Scholars Awards Reception presented by ESET at Tower Beach Club. We welcomed the new and returning class of Guardian Scholars and celebrated this year's graduating class. This year's group included 56 new students and 31 graduating Guardian Scholars.

The evening included delicious food, a photo booth, caricature artists, dessert generously donated by Handel's Ice Cream and inspirational speeches from our CEO Tonya Torosian, Clinical Services Manager Dr. Stephanie Oquendo, and Guardian Scholar Vanessa.

Vanessa currently attends Mira Costa College and will be graduating with two degrees in Behavioral Social Science, and plans to transfer to SDSU at the end of this fall. She is also a Youth2Youth peer mentor and looks forward to participating in more groups including the Speakers Bureau, and Black and Latinx groups.

Thanks to supporters like you, Promises2Kids can continue to make educational and career dreams come true!



Back To School Shopping Made Possible By You!

This July, nearly 700 foster youth ages ten and up, after a year of being away from teachers, friends and the classroom setting, were given the opportunity to shop at Old Navy in preparation to go back to school.

This event began years ago all thanks to one bighearted man, David Dunn, who always thought about helping other people. He knew how important it was to show up for school feeling confident, with the clothes and supplies they need. He started this program because foster youth don't always have that same opportunity as their peers, and he wanted them to feel good about themselves when they walked into their classrooms.

Sadly, Mr. Dunn passed away a few months ago but Promises2Kids was able to continue a smaller version of this year's back to school effort, keeping his spirit of generosity and kindness alive. His daughter Linda Dunn Winkler and granddaughter Chloe Winkler volunteered at the event, as they do every year.

At the event, youth shared how excited and grateful they were for this opportunity and left the store with big smiles and shopping bags full of clothes!



Golf Ball Drop: A Win-Win



Thank you to everyone who supported our 3rd Annual Brighter Futures Ball Drop, presented by Carmel Mountain Preschool. Through your generosity, we raised \$43,000! It is because of kind people like you, that foster children in San

Diego can reconnect with their brothers and sisters each month; complete their higher education; participate in extracurricular activities; and have a place to go where they are cared for, safe and out of harm's way.

A big congratulations to this year's \$2,500 winner, Judi Sinopoli! Judi purchased golf balls in honor of her great nephew Jackson who lived less than one day.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Carmel Mountain Preschool, Match Sponsor The Eugene La Pietra Foundation for matching \$10,000 in golf ball purchases, and our Prize Sponsor GEICO, for making this event possible!

carmel
Mountain Preschool

THE EUGENE
LA PIETRA
FOUNDATION

GEICO



Sunday, December 12th will mark Promises2Kids' 2nd annual Holiday Wine Auction, giving supporters the chance to bid on various wines and champagnes from the affordable to the collectible!

If you are able to donate a collectible bottle of wine or your favorite spirits to our auction, please email Liz@Promises2Kids.org.

Funds raised will contribute to the daily support of foster children in our community.



Pamplemousse Grille



PROMISES2KIDS
40th Anniversary

CEO Advisory Council

We are excited to announce and welcome our CEO Advisory Council!

"I am fortunate to have these community leaders sharing their expertise with me in support of foster children. A special thank you to Lidia Martinez who helped bring together this resource for Promises2Kids."

– Tonya Torosian, CEO

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Lidia Martinez

Southwest Airlines
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Volunteer Spotlight: Erika Petrizzo



Erika began volunteering in August of 2018, and has shown her passion and commitment to foster children from the very beginning.

She has contributed over 200 hours of her time. From helping out at summer camp and various Camp Connect events, delivering care packages and pizzas, supporting unaccompanied minors at the Convention Center, and assisting at events... Erika has done it all! At our recent beach party for siblings, Erika was one of the first volunteers to jump into the pool, creating a fun and safe environment for all.

With endless volunteer opportunities in San Diego, Erika chose to dedicate her time to Promises2Kids because our mission aligned with her belief that "children's well-being is the most important in this life".

"The incredible children that I have had the privilege of interacting with have shown me the true meaning of perseverance. They have strengthened my passion for being a foster youth champion. If you genuinely care about children, consider volunteering.... it will change your life for the better! It has certainly changed mine!"

Erika is a perfect blend of high, fun energy and responsible, grounded focus. She interacts with children with infectious joy, and never forgets safety and supervision.

Thank you for all you do Erika! We are lucky to have you as part of the Promises2Kids family!

Dream On

2021 CONCERT GALA

presented by
Kevin & Raegan Prior

Join Promises2Kids
for an exclusive evening
to benefit foster youth!

Dream On Concert Gala

PRESENTED BY
Kevin & Raegan Prior

MONDAY, SEPT. 13, 2021

Private dinner, concert and auction

Hosted at the Foxhill Estate of
Papa Doug Manchester

FEATURING

Belinda Carlisle

Acclaimed solo recording
artist and former lead singer
of the Go-Go's, who will be
inducted into the Rock & Roll
Hall of Fame this October.



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