

Siblings Making Memories

At a recent Camp Connect event, 43 youth spent an afternoon at Heart and Hooves Therapy in Ramona. The day began with youth greeting their siblings with excitement and hugs before exploring the petting zoo, walking ponies, practicing their lasso skills, decorating horseshoes, and petting goats, emus, chickens, and pigs.

Sisters Kylie and Sydney (now 18 and 16) were among the group who attended. They entered foster care in 2016 due to neglect when their parents could not meet their basic needs. They have been living apart ever since and only see each other through Camp Connect, which they joined shortly after entering care.

This group outing was especially hands on, so Kylie and Sydney were very involved and took this special opportunity to interact with the animals. They were excited that the handler let them braid the pony's mane and even had a friendly competition to see who could braid fastest. Kylie uses art as therapy, so she took extra care in decorating her own horseshoe. They were grateful to share a unique experience together and went home excited for their next visit.

Between attending monthly group events, they see each other through sibling visits, getting their nails done, going out for lunch, and enjoying each other's company.

Thank you to our community of supporters and amazing volunteers for making this memorable day possible for siblings like Kylie and Sydney!



Message from the CEO



With the start of the school year back in full swing, there are many foster children who aren't prepared and equipped for the transition back. Without our community's support, often many do not have basic school supplies, or new school

clothes to feel confident as they walk into the classroom setting.

I am grateful that foster youth here in San Diego have you - our community of dedicated supporters who never forget about them and continue to contribute your time, talent, and treasure to ensure that each child is ready to learn and is on track to succeed.

From the moment a child enters care, as early as birth, to the moment they are ready to transition to adulthood, and everything in between, you make it possible for all ages to pursue their goals.

Your generosity provides developmental support beginning at infancy, a safe haven for children who have nowhere else to go, the chance to participate in extracurricular activities with their peers, opportunities for separated siblings to reconnect with one another, and all the services and resources to succeed academically, graduate and find the career of their dreams.

Our community has been there every step of the way and I ask that you continue to show your support to ensure that every child in foster care knows that there are people who care.

Tonya Torosian, MSW, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer, Promises2Kids

Promises2Kids continues to provide comfort and hope to more than 3,000 current and former 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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Heading Back To School With Confidence

This past August, nearly 700 foster youth had the opportunity to shop for the upcoming school year. These shopping events were held at several Old Navy locations where youth went home with new clothes, shoes, and more.

This longstanding shopping event began many years ago and has continued thanks to the generosity of David Dunn and his family. Sadly, Mr. Dunn passed away last year, but we are honored to carry on his legacy and spirit of giving through this annual shopping event.

Youth were excited and grateful for this opportunity as they left the store with big smiles and full shopping bags!



Success In The Classroom, Thanks To You!

Sara (4) arrived to The A.B. and Jessie and Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) when she was 2 years old. She was removed from her biological parents due to having experienced child abuse, and was exposed to drugs and alcohol. She has since been placed with caregivers who are dedicated to supporting her developmental and behavioral needs.

Due to her being at risk of losing her school placement because of her behavior challenges, Sara was screened for KidSTART services at PCC, which could provide the specialized care she needed.



Sara joined a group that prepared children and their families for kindergarten. The group met 5 days a week where her caregivers were coached on ways to support her, and the children were taught how to behave in class. They learned about raising their hand when they had a question, or putting away their belongings in cubbies. Sara was a leader in the group, which illustrated how far she had come!

Over the course of services, Sara made significant progress. For the first time in two years, she started to sleep much better, which has helped her overall functioning. She is now experiencing success in the classroom and has built her confidence.

Because of supporters like you, foster children like Sara can receive the support they need to be healthy and happy!

Meet Guardian Scholar, Brittney!

Growing up one of the hardest things that I had to accept about myself was the fact that I am a foster youth. I had to acclimate myself to change and the idea of uncertainty; all while working past low self-esteem and confusion of who I truly am without the influence of others, the expectation of being mature as a child while also being expected to be a kid enjoying childlike activities, often feeling confused on my identity and what was truly expected of me, and how I could fulfill these expectations as one who struggles with a people pleasing personality. Still to this day I am working towards breaking free of my people pleasing nature and living life by my own design.

My involvement with Promises2Kids has allowed me to connect with myself and find a community of people who encourage and motivate me towards sharing who I truly am and promoting self-love and expression.

As a participant in many of the specialty groups including Women's Leadership Network and Advocates for Change, I feel connected, heard, and accepted for my authentic self without limitation or filter. Promises2Kids has truly helped me for the better, and I am proud to call myself a Promises2Kids Guardians Scholar.



Brittney

A Memorable Day At The Beach

On September 24th, 60 Guardian Scholars and their families, along with volunteers, mentors, and Promises2Kids staff enjoyed a fun outing on the beach at the Mission Bay Yacht Club. This was the second year hosting Guardian Scholars, however this marked over 15 years hosting an annual beach day for Promises2Kids.

This event provided Guardian Scholars with the opportunity to enjoy the sun with their children, and bond with their peers and Promises2Kids staff. Attendees were entertained with a waterslide, boat rides on the bay, kayaking, paddleboarding, barbecued gourmet hot dogs and hamburgers, chips and salsa, and ice cream.

A special thank you to Mission Bay Yacht Club, and to all their incredible supporters who made this day, one to remember!



Your Generosity Changes Lives



Shelby (10) was removed from her biological parents when she was 6 years old, due to physical abuse and domestic violence. When she entered care she was extremely shy, making it difficult for her to develop friendships.

When Shelby told her social worker that she wanted to participate in sports such as cheerleading and softball, they reached out to Promises2Kids. Through Foster Funds, Shelby has been able to participate in cheerleading, softball, and even gymnastics! Through these extracurriculars, Shelby is building confidence in herself and has started to make friends.

Most importantly, Shelby is being given the opportunity to be herself and have fun with her peers. She now looks forward to her extracurriculars every week, does cartwheels all over the house, and smiles more than before.

You are the reason why foster children like Shelby can participate in the same extracurriculars as their peers. Shelby is building relationships and creating memories that she will cherish forever.

Volunteer Spotlight: Janice



For over 8 years, Janice has selflessly dedicated her time and efforts to Promises2Kids. She was first introduced to Promises2Kids through her employer, ICW Group. Since then, Janice has volunteered for over 200 hours and has been a consistent advocate for foster children.

"I remember watching the agency video and hearing one of the founders talk about the children's stories and it just spoke to my heart. Their heartbreaking stories make me want to be a part of the organization even more," Janice shared.

Janice has volunteered at our annual Dream On Concert Gala for a remarkable 8 consecutive years, she has also assembled care packages for our youth on multiple occasions. Janice ensures that events are well-staffed by recruiting friends and family to volunteer. Her hard work does not go unnoticed!

Even when she's not directly volunteering, Janice is sharing information about Promises2Kids to her own network. In 2018, she connected thousands of individuals who came from around the world for an annual association chapter meeting, where Janice successfully nominated Promises2Kids as the featured charity and raised over \$6,000.

Janice has an incredible attitude and remains helpful and flexible no matter what is asked of her. Through her hard work and dedication, Janice is truly a leader to foster youth and her fellow volunteers alike.

Janice, your passion, and commitment is the reason we can continue to create brighter futures for foster children. Thank you for all that you do!

To learn about volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved, visit www.Promises2Kids.org.

Dream On

CONCERT GALA



We are grateful to everyone who joined us at our 13th annual Dream On Concert Gala presented by Kevin and Raegan Prior on September 12th. The event took place under the stars at the La Jolla estate home of Joan Waitt. Thank you to our Premier Sponsors, Southwest Airlines – Promises2Kids' Official Airline, Aetna, Orli La Jolla, Dowling & Yahnke Wealth Advisors, Gordon & Rees Scully Mansukhani, La Jolla Cosmetic Surgery Centre & Medical Spa, and VIP Media Partner – Ranch & Coast Magazine.

The event was attended by over 500 philanthropists, community, and business leaders, and included a reception, dinner, live auction, speech by former Guardian Scholar - Caleb, and a concert by Berlin, one of the greatest synth electro-pop bands of all time. The evening's special menu was prepared by Owner and Executive Chef Jeffrey Strauss, of Pamplemousse Grille.

This event was made possible by our event chairs Stephanie Brown, Lynne Doyle, Deborah Marengo, Merrilee Neal, and Joan Waitt.

A special thank you to our Honorary Chairs - The Stephen and Lynne Doyle Family Foundation, Dan & Phyllis Epstein, Lee & Stuart Posnock; Honorary Committee - Renée Comeau & Terry Gulden; and Host Committee - Cooley LLP, Jack McGrory & Una Davis, and Ellen & Jim Moxham.

Nearly \$1.8 million (net) was raised for San Diego foster youth, all thanks to the generosity of our incredible community!



Image Courtesy of GB Magazine



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Thank You Loan Signing System!

Promises2Kids is thankful to have been selected as the beneficiary of the 2022 Loan Signing System Conference this past August. Over 1,000 attended the conference put on by Loan Signing System Owner, Promises2Kids Board Member, Men's Leadership Network Coach, and Major Donor, Mark Wills, along with his business partner Roman Rosario.



Former Guardian Scholar, Caleb, shared how the program has impacted his life and how thankful he is for the support. Promises2Kids CEO, Tonya Torosian, was also present to receive the generous donation.

We are incredibly appreciative for Loan Signing System's continued support. This year alone, over \$20,000 was raised for San Diego foster youth which will help better the lives of many current and former foster youth in our community.

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HOLIDAY Wine AUCTION

DECEMBER 3, 2022

Saturday, December 3rd will mark Promises2Kids' 3rd 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:
Amanda@Promises2Kids.org

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

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