

Siblings Enjoy A Magical Day

73 youth were recently treated to a magical day of memorable fun as they visited Disneyland and California Adventure Park, a day made possible by the Arbonne Charitable Foundation.

The trip spanned the entire day at both Disney parks, where youth rode famous rides such as Star Tours and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

Among the group were five brothers (ages 7-16). They entered foster care in 2020 and live apart in three different homes. The boys have been attending Camp Connect events since they entered care and have been able to maintain their relationships, and create new and unforgettable memories each time they see each other.

The brothers stood in line for the Pixar Pal-A-Round ferris wheel, even though a couple were hesitant to go on the ride. The oldest brother encouraged them to give it a try, and as they got closer to getting on the ride, there was more excitement and nervousness. In the end, the brothers were all smiles from ear-to-ear and visibly enjoyed the ride – one that they will never forget!



Youth left happy and exhausted, but they didn't leave empty-handed. All youth received goody bags filled with Disney memorabilia, including those famous mouse ears. The highlight was taking photos with their siblings to remember their special day together at "the happiest place on earth".

In August, siblings will enjoy a 4-day, 3-night traditional summer camp and we are looking for volunteers to provide safety, supervision, and fun! Email Christy@Promises2Kids.org to learn more.

Message from the CEO



I recently left for a sabbatical through an award from the Clare Rose Foundation and Fieldstone Leadership Network. It is a unique opportunity they provide to a couple of nonprofits each year to support leadership development and capacity

building for an organization. We were chosen and it allows the CEO to take time to refresh, stretch and grow to come back with a new perspective all while the organization gets to develop new leadership roles and skills from within. It is such a gift to the whole organization, and I am excited to return on July 25th with new experiences as a result.

The Promises2Kids team has never been stronger, and I am proud of each of the staff here, especially in how they have demonstrated leadership in so many ways. We have worked closely with the team at Fieldstone to prepare for my time away, and I am confident that our organization is in great hands with our wonderful staff and Board of Directors.

While I am away, Stephanie Ortega, who has been with Promises2Kids for over 15 years, will be Acting CEO. Promises2Kids is fortunate to have Stephanie's compassion for foster children and youth alongside her expertise in this leadership role.

Although I will miss the interactions with youth, I am excited for the sabbatical and am equally, if not more thrilled, to return to see what great things Promises2Kids has accomplished.

Thank you Clare Rose Foundation and the Fieldstone Leadership Network.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya Torosian".

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.

Remembering Mr. Rivkin



Who in your life was so amazing that you wish everyone had the opportunity to have known them? For Promises2Kids, Arthur Rivkin is one of those people. It is with a heavy heart, we share that Mr. Rivkin passed away peacefully in April, at the age of 98. For those who did not have the honor of knowing him, here is a little about his legacy.

Mr. Rivkin married his beloved wife, Jeannie, over 70 years ago and they have two children, Robert and Michael. He and Mrs. Rivkin spent their life helping others. They made that such a priority that they immediately supported Promises2Kids' efforts for San Diego foster children by providing the lead gift for the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center, named after Jeannie's parents, which opened in 1994 replacing the outdated and overcrowded Hillcrest Receiving Center. Whenever we connected with Mr. Rivkin, he always asked, "How are the kids?"

The Center, along with many other community impact efforts they led, too many to even list, have made the San Diego community a better place. Promises2Kids has been honored to help Mr. and Mrs. Rivkin create a lasting impact for San Diego foster children.

We send our well wishes to Jeannie, Robert and Michael, and we honor Mr. Rivkin's legacy and will continue to keep his memory alive.

Meet Guardian Scholar, Roberto!



From a young age, I had little understanding of what family was. My environment was influenced heavily by drugs and violence, so a sense of emptiness lingered throughout my childhood. It was unstable and I didn't have anyone to look up to.

I had a different view of life as I entered foster care at the age of 9. By 17, I had attended 8 schools and had been in 11 group homes, the A.B. & Jessie Polinsky Children's Center and a foster home. My past has shaped who I am today because of each experience I endured. I learned from my mistakes and gained the strength to chase my goals. Going from a troubled kid to a college student is my biggest accomplishment and I thank those who have helped me throughout my journey.

I'm incredibly grateful for my foster mom because she has always supported me. She encouraged me to fulfill my goals and continue my education. She always told me that, "a degree is the one thing that people can't take away from you." I reflect on this quote often because it motivates me to keep going.

I am thankful for Promises2Kids for seeing my potential and for the wonderful opportunities through Guardian Scholars, including being part of the Mens Leadership network, connections with mentors, and job opportunities. They have shown me how to advocate for myself, and I feel more prepared to finish my education and obtain my bachelor's degree in social work. It is my dream to start my own non-profit organization and give back to the community that gave to me. I give all my gratitude to those who have supported and inspired me to want better for my life and future journey.

- Roberto



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Siblings Marley (3) and Jace (2) were born into an environment of drug abuse and neglect. Their mother's continuing struggle with addiction meant that they were no longer safe at home. When they entered care, Jace had just been born, while his sister Marley was only 14 months old. They were removed but placed together with the same foster mom.

Thanks to supporters like you, Promises2Kids was able to provide them something they can enjoy together. Their foster mom requested a 2-seater electric toy car. Since the two are so close in age, their foster mom always encourages any activity that they both can enjoy together.

When they were given the car, they couldn't believe that something this cool was just for them! As soon as Marley hit the peddle, they lit up. They were both filled with giggles as they rode around the block again and again.

Jace constantly looks up to his sister, but this car is something that they share and take equal part in. Even though he is usually the passenger, he takes his role as the navigator very seriously.

Wishes like this would not be possible without your support. You are the reason we can continue to put smiles on the faces of foster children!

A Special Dedication

A momentous occasion was recently celebrated at the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center for the first time in over 10 years. A children's cottage dedication was held, acknowledging the support of Debbie Sinopoli and her late wife, Shari Narde-Sinopoli, and their commitment to creating a brighter future for foster children in the San Diego community.



The Sinopoli family has always been adamant in their support of children's causes, and it was the pursuit of those causes that led them to Promises2Kids and the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center. Debbie and Shari have been long-time donors and upon Shari's passing last year, Debbie made a generous gift in Shari's memory. She wanted to do something monumental that would impact the lives of abused and neglected children in need. The Narde-Sinopoli cottage was dedicated on April 8, 2022.

Promises2Kids is grateful for Debbie's dedication to their mission, and her generosity to help provide a safe and loving environment where children are out of harm's way.

PROMISES2KIDS



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Coming Together To Create Brighter Futures



Promises2Kids, Lennar, and HomeAid San Diego recently completed a 45-hour intensive construction training program for a group of Guardian Scholars.

Students gained on-site instruction and education, as well as hands-on training and expertise from dedicated staff. Graduates of the program were presented with a toolbelt and a laptop to help them along as they construct their futures.

Thanks to this pilot program, this group of students now have the skillset, insight, and confidence to apply to jobs in the construction industry that previously might have been inaccessible to them. Many even received job offers from Lennar upon completion of the program.

We are grateful for this opportunity with Lennar and HomeAid San Diego.

Making Educational Dreams Come True

On April 2nd, Promises2Kids brought together an intimate group of “Partners in Education” who generously sponsored a Guardian Scholar for the academic year. These sponsors help provide the resources for the wrap-around services that contribute to an 85% graduation rate among the foster youth that Promises2Kids support.



25 sponsored Guardian Scholar students, sponsors, guests and Promises2Kids staff were in attendance for an intimate luncheon graciously hosted by a longtime supporter at their beautiful home.



During the event, sponsors had the opportunity to hear first-hand about the impact of their generous support.

This event was a first in a series of year-long events aimed to bring Guardian Scholars and sponsors together to build community and personal connections. This was the first time many students and their sponsors had met in person after more than a year of virtual events.

Thank you to all our Partners in Education for helping make educational dreams come true!



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Corporate Spotlight:

Neiman Marcus

In honor of Women's History Month this past March, Neiman Marcus hosted a panel discussion featuring three women influencing positive change in the community, including Promises2Kids CEO, Tonya Torosian.



Earlier in the year, Neiman Marcus opened their doors for a private shopping event in support of Promises2Kids. The evening featured festive drinks and light bites, expert wardrobe and gift curation, a raffle, and more. Those in attendance enjoyed shopping in style and 10% of eligible sales were generously donated to help San Diego's foster youth.

We were honored to be part of these events and are thankful for Neiman Marcus' continued support.



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