

Siblings Return to Summer Camp

In early August, we brought back our four-day, three-night Camp Connect summer camp, after having to cancel it the past two years due to Covid-19. The “Dino Days” themed weekend provided an opportunity for brothers and sisters to be kids, all while creating new memories together. Youth were ecstatic to be reunited with both their siblings and friends, as many had not seen each other in months, and for some, years.



51 siblings (ages 6-20) enjoyed various activities including: swimming, rock-climbing, ziplining, horseback riding, scrapbooking, hiking, bingo, a dance party, science presentation, culinary therapy, talent show, an animal encounter experience, and much more.



It was a special weekend for Connor (8) and his siblings Cade (12), Cameron (6) and Camila (10). They entered foster care in 2020 due to abuse and neglect, and are now living apart in two foster homes. They have been participating in Camp Connect events since last year, so this was their very first summer camp.

The siblings loved playing in the pool together, and supported each other all weekend long. While doing the science experiment that featured a volcanic eruption, Connor got nervous and backed away, but with encouragement from his siblings cheering him on, he got the courage to finish the experiment.



At the end of the weekend, Cade began crying and shared that he didn't want the weekend to end. He and his siblings gave each other long embraces before saying goodbye, but because of supporters like you, they will see each other again next month.

Generous donors and over 100 volunteers made this weekend possible, and the smiles on the children's faces said it all. We could not be more thankful for our amazing community.

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



I recently returned from a 3-month sabbatical through an award from the Clare Rose Foundation and Fieldstone Leadership Network. This was a unique opportunity that they provide to a couple of nonprofits each year to support leadership development and capacity building for an organization.

This allowed me to refresh, stretch, and grow to come back with a new perspective all while the organization developed new leadership skills from within.

Both myself and Promises2Kids grew so much during my time away, and in areas that will bring added benefit to our youth.

Promises2Kids has never been stronger, and I am incredibly proud of the team's accomplishments under Stephanie Ortega's leadership as Acting CEO while I was away.

Our mission is one of hope, restoration, and opportunity. We will work to continue to provide that to all our youth through leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropy.

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

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Your Gift Changes Lives

Levi (2) entered foster care when he was only 13 months old. Both of his parents used drugs and he was physically abused by his father, which resulted in Levi being removed from his home.

Due to his history of abuse and trauma, Levi experiences bouts of aggression and is often agitated. However, like many young children, he is also curious and energetic.

Because of bighearted supporters like you, through Foster Funds, we were able to enroll Levi in a program at a local gym to help him develop his early life skills.

When he first arrived, Levi could hardly wait to get his hands on the baby-safe equipment. Now, he is thriving in both structured and free playtime. Since joining the program, Levi continues to gain confidence and is working on playing well with others.

To make a difference in the lives of foster children like Levi, visit www.Promises2Kids.org.



A Day in the Life of Elected Officials

Guardian Scholars were hosted by the City of San Diego and Mayor Todd Gloria's office for a "Shadow Day", that provided a unique opportunity for students to learn about city government, shadow elected officials and city staff members, and gain valuable experience in a work environment.



The day began with an address by Mayor Gloria who proclaimed May as Foster Care Awareness Month. Students then dispersed with various city council members, San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Nora Vargas, and department offices to spend half the day shadowing employees and learning as much as possible through this unique experience.

We are grateful to the city, Mayor Gloria, Councilmembers, San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Nora Vargas, and the department offices for partnering on this initiative and helping create brighter futures for foster youth.

Foster Youth Benefit Thanks To You



On June 5th, we hosted our Cocktails for a Cause event, featuring the Brighter Futures Ball Drop, both presented by Carmel Mountain Preschool.

Community members and young professionals gathered at JULEP to learn about our mission, while raising critical funds to benefit foster youth in San Diego. Guardian Scholar, Samantha, shared her inspiring story and how her life has been positively impacted by the support she has received.

Guests enjoyed delicious mimosas, food, mini golf and a 360 photo booth experience. To end off, a live viewing of our Brighter Futures

Ball Drop revealed the winner of a \$2,500 cash prize – Jamie Oberto!

Thanks to our generous community, \$28,000 was raised!

We are grateful to our amazing sponsors who made this event possible: Presenting Sponsor - Carmel Mountain Preschool, Prize Sponsor - GEICO, Champagne Sponsor - Crushed, Putting Green Sponsor - SDHomesByCarrie.com, Photo Booth Sponsor - Lohman & Associates, Inc., and Media Partner - Modern Luxury.

For information on upcoming events, visit www.Promises2Kids.org.



In honor of National Foster Care Month this past May, 37 local businesses united to help support programs and services for current and former foster youth.

Thanks to our new and returning partners, and the greater San Diego community, for raising nearly \$30,000!

20|Twenty
Artesano Taco
Barrel & Board
Batch & Box
Beeside Balcony
Broad Street Dough Co.
Canteen Coffee Roasters
Cevasco's
Cork & Knife
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Knotty Barrel
(Rancho Penasquitos)
La Cajita
Mermaids & Cowboys
Meze Greek Fusion
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Ranch 45
Rare Society
RoVino The Foodery
Sisters Pizza
Tamarindo

The Crack Shack
The Good Seed
Food Company
The Lodge at
Torrey Pines
Three Hills Winery
Toast Gastrobrunch
Urban Plates
Waverly

A special thank you to our Media Partner, Ranch & Coast Magazine, for their years of dedication to providing hope and opportunities for local foster youth.

A Call For Celebration



Our Annual Guardian Scholars Award Reception - presented by ESET, took place on July 13th at Julep. 54 graduates were honored, and 60 new Guardian Scholars along with returning students were celebrated and welcomed. Nearly 300 students are currently in the Guardian Scholars program, making it the largest number to date. Attendees enjoyed dinner, table games and photo booths stocked with fun props.

Guardian Scholar graduate, Jasmine delivered an inspirational speech on the support she has received from Promises2Kids to help to achieve her goals. We also heard from another graduate, Tatiana, and her mentor, Kelly. Both spoke movingly about the impact they have had on each other's lives, and gave an uplifting message for those just beginning in the program. Lastly, COO, Stephanie Ortega, shared the history of the program and our continued commitment to supporting our youth every step of the way.

Thanks to your support, we can continue to help former foster youth achieve their educational and career goals.





Dream On

CONCERT GALA

PRESENTED BY
KEVIN & RAEGAN PRIOR

Sept. 12, 2022

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HOSTED BY **Joan Waitt**

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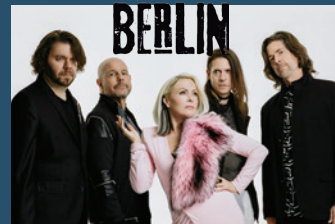


OTHER SUPPORT PROVIDED BY



Join Promises2Kids for
an exclusive evening
of dinner and music to
benefit foster youth!

HOSTED AT THE LA JOLLA
ESTATE HOME OF JOAN WAITT
Private dinner, auction, and live concert



Hits include *Take My Breath Away* from *Top Gun* and *The Metro*

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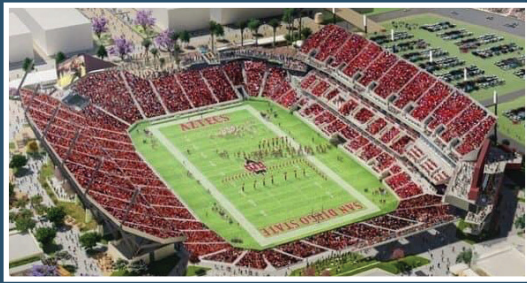


PROMISES2KIDS

Promises2Kids.org

Dream On

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



Ultimate SDSU Aztec Football Experience
in a suite at the brand new Snapdragon Stadium
on September 24th



5-Day Luxury Yacht Cruise Through The Galapagos



Golden Door 5 Day Rejuvenating Getaway



Private Dinner for 18 at the Estate Home of Joan Waite,
Prepared by Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille

For more details, visit www.Promises2Kids.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Cristina



Cristina first heard about Promises2Kids through her coworkers who were active volunteers. Since 2017 she has volunteered over 400 hours - at shopping events, amusement park trips, summer camp, and more. She is also part of the Camp Connect Committee.

"I've always wanted to give back to the community, and to have my life be more than just about myself. When I'm gone, if I just lived for myself, what good was there? I want to make an impact," says Cristina.

During her time as a volunteer, she has done just that. She has positively impacted many young lives. One was a teen girl at summer camp who was reserved and barely interacted with anyone. Cristina engaged with her as much as possible, making sure to include her. On the last day, the teen stepped off the bus to give Cristina a big hug. In that moment, Cristina knew that she had made a connection with the teen and made her feel important and included.

"I would encourage anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer to just do it. You don't know the impact that you can make on your community," she shared.

Cristina is a huge help, always stepping up when we are short on volunteers. She consistently brings a positive attitude and possesses the true characteristics of a volunteer.

We are appreciative for everything Cristina does and we are lucky to have her as part of the Promises2Kids family.

**For volunteer opportunities, visit
www.Promises2Kids.org.**

Guardian Scholars Visit The Capitol

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce is a hub for connections and collaboration. They recently sponsored two Guardian Scholars to attend the 2022 Leadership Delegation to Sacramento, which provided a wonderful opportunity to experience, learn and grow personally and professionally.

The trip provided many “firsts” and allowed the former foster youth to hear from numerous government officials to better understand how they too, can impact San Diego and California. The 2-day trip was filled with presentations, networking, and even a private tour of the Capitol offices from Senator Toni Atkins and her staff.



Thank you to Jerry Sanders and Jaymie Bradford from the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce for making this possible, and to Senator Toni Atkins for making this experience an unforgettable one!

Thank You Jimbo's!

This past May during National Foster Care Month, \$4,644.16 was raised by Jimbo's & their amazing customers.



Funds raised will give foster youth the opportunity to achieve their educational goals, reconnect with their siblings each month, participate in extracurricular activities, and much more.

Jimbo's has been committed to supporting foster youth in our community for many years and we are grateful for their continued partnership.

Dining for a Cause

On May 20th, over 40 guests were hosted by longtime supporter Jolene Perry at her beautiful Rancho Santa Fe home for her annual Winemaker Dinner, benefiting Promises2Kids.

Attendees were treated to an exquisite 3-course meal, each paired with premier wine from Cooper Winery. Dinner was prepared by Jeffrey Strauss - Executive Chef and Owner of Pamplemousse Grille.

Thank you to Jolene Perry for once again hosting this wonderful evening to help raise funds and awareness to support San Diego foster youth. The evening was a true celebration of our mission to create brighter futures for foster children, and it would not have been possible without our incredible supporters.



Photo Courtesy of Ranch & Coast Magazine

Get involved! Volunteer or become a Promise Maker through a monthly gift. To learn more or make a gift today, visit promises2kids.org