

Separated Siblings Reunited Thanks To You

Summer Camp is one of the highlights of our year - a special week where youth can just be themselves and have fun with their siblings and friends.

This year's camp expanded to 6 days and 5 nights in the San Diego mountains. While maintaining the traditional sibling-oriented camp, this year was open to all youth in care, with nearly 100 attending.

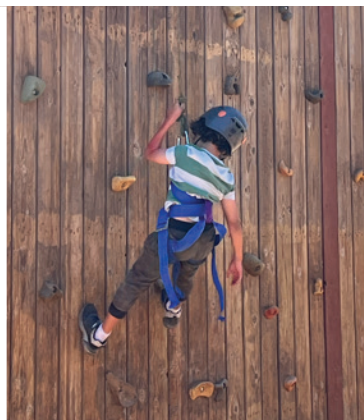
Lucas (12), Naomi (11), and Zayden (6) entered care in 2021 after being severely neglected at home. They were separated and have lived apart ever since. However, they began attending Camp Connect where they are brought together through monthly events.

This was their second year attending summer camp and they embraced their six days together. Lucas was constantly in the mix, hyping the crowd during the talent show, cheering on his siblings during lawn games, and bringing the energy all week. Naomi was a superstar in games, especially in kickball, delighting her siblings.

Zayden, being younger, sometimes found himself overwhelmed by the constant action and stimulation. In these moments, he retreated to the sidelines. Lucas and Naomi were keenly in tune with their little brother's moods and never failed to break from their activities to show him love, make him feel comfortable, and help him reengage. Above all, they were always a team together.

Summer Camp is made for moments like these, where siblings can reconnect, be there for one another, and reinforce that, no matter what, they will always be there for each other.

Thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to make summer camp the fun and safe place these youth deserve, and thank you to our supporters, who made this unforgettable experience possible.



Message From The CEO



The new school year is underway! While foster children reconnected with their brothers and sisters through summer camp and other fun activities, the need for spending time together becomes increasingly high during the fall and winter.

With the holidays upon us, foster youth are without their families during a season that is typically full of celebration. It's a time when their peers will gather with their families to enjoy traditional meals, laugh, and embrace. Foster youth often feel isolated.

Your generosity has created memorable moments through holiday events, so siblings can experience the magic of the holidays... together! For many, Promises2Kids is their only support system. They are matched with mentors who play a tremendous role year-round, but especially during this time. Mentors listen, support, and guide them, ensuring they feel important and worthy.

I am grateful that foster youth have you - our dedicated community that contributes time, talent, and treasure. Your kindness provides opportunities for separated siblings to reunite, and creates a "family" of support for the youth.

I ask that you continue to show your support so that every child in foster care knows that they are loved.

Tonya Torosian, MSW, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer, Promises2Kids

Promises2Kids continues to provide comfort and hope to nearly 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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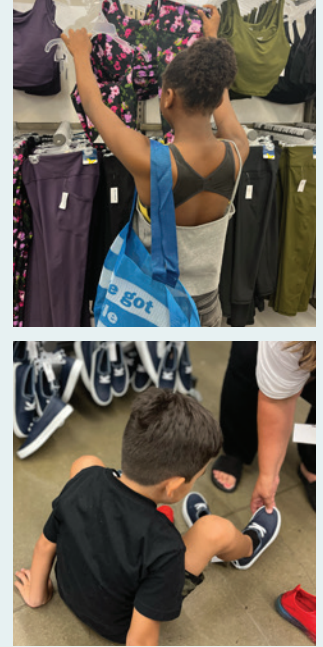
A Boost Of Confidence

This past August, 631 foster youth enjoyed a day of shopping to get ready for the new school year. Shopping events were held at several Old Navy locations where youth went home with new clothes, shoes, and more. It's important for youth to feel and look their best on their first day of school.

This longstanding shopping event began years ago and has continued with a legacy gift provided through David Dunn's trust. Sadly, Mr. Dunn is no longer with us, but his legacy and spirit continues to create brighter futures for San Diego's foster youth and we are honored to be a part of it.

It's often an underappreciated experience to pick out your own wardrobe and youth were excited and grateful for this opportunity as they left the store with their bags full, ready to take on the 2023-24 school year!

If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of foster children, visit Promises2Kids.org for ways to get involved.



Kicking Off The School Year



Guardian Scholars kicked off the 2023-2024 academic year at San Diego Miramar College. Students gathered with their peers to learn about the resources and services available to them as they strive to reach their educational and career goals.

This year, students were reintroduced to specialty groups that help build community and belonging, including Advocates for Change, Men's and Women's Leadership Network, Black & Latinx cultural groups, Parenting, and LGBTQ+ group. Community members came together to provide a resource fair with information on services related to housing, childcare, employment, and more. A wellness workshop gave Guardian Scholars vital insight on prioritizing physical and mental health. Lastly, California Coast Credit Union gave a lesson on financial literacy and best practices when it comes to their money.

It's an exciting time of year for Guardian Scholars and we can't wait to see the great things they will accomplish this year! It is because of your generosity that our Guardian Scholars are connected to a community that provides them with the tools to live a happy and successful life.

To become a one-on-one mentor or group coach, visit Promises2Kids.org/Volunteer.



PROMISES2KIDS

Dream On

CONCERT GALA
PRESENTED BY
KEVIN & RAEGAN PRIOR



It was the biggest night of Promises2Kids' year at our 14th annual Dream On Concert Gala presented by Kevin and Raegan Prior. The event took place on September 18th under the stars at the La Jolla estate home of Joan Waitt.

Thank you to premier sponsors, Aetna, Southwest Airlines – Promises2Kids' Official Airline, Orli La Jolla, Jolene Perry, and Premier Media Partner Ranch & Coast Magazine.

Over 500 philanthropists, community & business leaders, and supporters joined us for a reception, dinner, and live auction, speech by two Guardian Scholars who shared their inspiring stories leading up to their successes, and a special private concert by rock band, Daughtry. In addition to fun photo opportunities and bidding on one-of-a-kind auction items, guests enjoyed a special menu prepared by Owner and Executive Chef, Jeffrey Strauss, of Pamplemousse Grille.

Thanks to our supporters, the event grossed over \$1.8 million for San Diego's foster youth!

A special thank you to our event chairs - Lynne Doyle, Deborah Marengo, Merrilee Neal, Jolene Perry, and Joan Waitt; Honorary Chairs - Jack McGrory, Lee & Stuart Posnock, Anna Marie Sorriso; and Host Committee - L. Renée Comeau & Terry Gulden.



Thank You To Our Dream On Sponsors!

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On August 1st, Promises2Kids held our Annual Reception at The LOT in La Jolla. We gathered to celebrate the successes of the previous year and announced our goals for the future. Agency leadership, including Immediate Past Chair Merrilee Neal, CEO Tonya Torosian, and COO Stephanie Ortega, addressed those gathered on the importance of continuing to pursue our mission for foster youth, especially through mental health services, parenting support, and childcare for former foster youth. Additionally, a Camp Connect participant, youth counselor, and new Guardian Scholar gave an inspiring account of her Camp Connect experience and the impact it's had on her life.

We are looking forward to achieving our goals as we continue to create brighter futures for San Diego's foster youth!



Thank You Loan Signing System!

Promises2Kids is grateful to have been selected once again as the beneficiary of the 2023 Loan Signing System conference this past July.

This annual conference has raised critical funds for Promises2Kids. Loan Signing System owner, Mark Wills, is a Promises2Kids Board member, a major donor, Men's Leadership Network Coach, Mentor, a foster youth himself, and a valued champion of our mission. We are thankful for both Mark's, and his business partner, Roman Rosario's continued support of local foster youth.



Guardian Scholar, Katy spoke on the incredible impact that Promises2Kids has had in her life, and she was an inspiration to everyone in the room. CEO, Tonya Torosian shared her gratitude for Loan Signing System and conference attendees, and shared ways for the community to become involved with Promises2Kids.

Thank you to Loan Signing System, and the notary signing agents in attendance at the conference, who raised \$13,000 for San Diego's foster youth! Together we are changing foster children's lives for the better.

Your Generosity Changes Lives

Alice (1) entered foster care the day she was born due to being exposed prenatally to drugs. She stayed at the NICU for two months as a result of being born prematurely at 6 ½ months and being behind developmentally. Alice has been placed with a foster family that is deeply invested in helping her grow happy and healthy.

To help her improve her motor skills, her caregiver reached out to Promises2Kids, and through the Something Special Fund, building blocks, shape puzzles and Montessori toys were purchased for Alice. The toys have been a great way to keep her entertained, but most importantly have served as a learning tool, as she is able to practice her hand-eye coordination. Her caregiver is dedicated to helping her thrive. Prior to having these toys, her caregiver would try her best to help her learn by using Montessori techniques, however these toys have been essential in keeping her engaged.

Because of supporters like you, foster children like Alice can have toys that put a smile on their face and can help them grow developmentally.



Welcome

to our new Board Members



Purvi Mehra
Community Volunteer



Dustin TenBroeck
Presidio Capital Management
President



Steve Walton
Marrokal Design and Remodeling
Senior Design Consultant
Director of Business Operations

Independent Financial Group: Making A Difference

Promises2Kids is thankful to have been chosen as the beneficiary of Independent Financial Group's (IFG) annual conference, celebrating their 20th anniversary and all that they have done in the community. Throughout the conference, a silent auction was held to raise funds for San Diego's foster children. Proceeds totaled \$31,000. In an additional generous surprise, IFG announced an additional \$15,000 to Promises2Kids critical programs, for a total contribution of \$46,000.



Promises2Kids CEO, Tonya Torosian and Promises2Kids Consultant, Corey Polant, were presented with the two checks. We are grateful to have had IFG as a partner in our mission for the past 3 years and we are proud of the work we are doing together for the foster children of San Diego. Without the support from community partners like IFG, our work would not be possible.

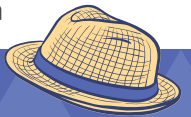


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