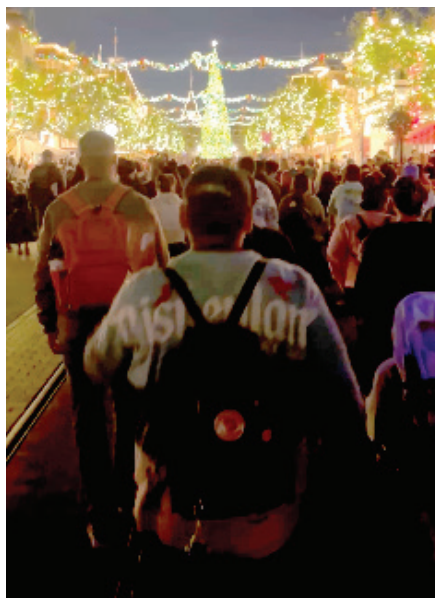


Siblings Reunite At The Happiest Place On Earth

The holidays can be a difficult time for foster children separated from their families. Reuniting with your brothers and sisters can mean everything to a child. It's with that in mind that we pull out all the stops for the Camp Connect holiday party each year.

We began with breakfast at Broken Yolk Cafe in Mission Valley, who did an extraordinary job accommodating us and making the children feel welcome. The service and breakfast was top-notch, and for that we are thankful. ICW Group Insurance Companies lent their time and enthusiasm to many of our efforts throughout the year, but this event has become a special tradition. We are grateful for the care shown to make sure that these children had a magical day. The place erupted with joy as they played games and unwrapped gifts from their wish lists, generously sponsored by ICW Group Insurance Companies.

Buses then loaded up and it was off to what was a first for many. 92 brothers and sisters along with 35 volunteers made the trip to Disneyland and California Adventure for an unforgettable day! Before setting off, each child was outfitted with their choice of Disney ears, a trading pin, and other swag. The older siblings watched with delight as their younger siblings lit up with wonder and joy at the many attractions and characters.



That was certainly the case with Hunter (10), Amber (9), and Max (5); all three reunited for the first time in three years. They enjoyed going on rides together, laughing and screaming, with arms in the air. They were the picture of youthful, wholesome fun.

Days like these, that Hunter, Amber, and Max enjoyed are exactly what Camp Connect is all about, keeping this vital bond alive and creating memories together.

Because of supporters like you, they can count on many more days like these!

Message From The CEO: Forever In Our Hearts

It is with great sadness that we at Promises2Kids are mourning the loss of beloved Jeannie Rivkin. Jeannie, a dedicated and compassionate advocate for children's well-being, and many other community needs, passed away at the age of 94. She and her late husband Arthur (Art) devoted their lives to making a positive impact on the community and specifically at Promises2Kids, positively impacting tens of thousands of children who had been victims of abuse or neglect, leaving a lasting legacy of kindness and generosity.

Jeannie Rivkin was known not only for her remarkable philanthropic endeavors but also for her warm heart, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of children in need. Her selfless dedication to creating a brighter future for the youngest members of our community touched the lives of many and inspired those around her.

Jeannie and Art made the lead gift of \$5 million to build San Diego's emergency shelter for abused and neglected children, the Polinsky Children's Center, which opened in 1994, and is named in honor of Jeannie's parents A.B. & Jessie Polinsky. Since its opening, this safe haven has cared for more than 60,000 children in crisis.

Through her tireless efforts, foster children and youth in our community have benefitted, Promises2Kids has flourished and became a critical support to children at the Polinsky Children's Center and the thousands of current and former foster youth each year in need of educational support, mentoring and other services.



Jeannie would always ask about the children and talk about how much it meant to her personally, to know that they received the help they needed. Her kindness and empathy were felt by every child who crossed her path, leaving an indelible mark on their lives.

I have known Jeannie for nearly 20 years and was inspired by her strength, kindness and compassion and loved her sense of humor and that she always had positive outlook. She was a friend to many and inspiration to even more than she knew.

Jeannie leaves behind a community transformed by her philanthropic contributions. Her legacy will continue through the countless lives she touched, the smiles she brought to the faces of children, and the positive change she championed. Her impact will be remembered not only through the tangible improvements in the lives of those she assisted but also in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Jeannie's beloved sons, Robert and Mike have requested that in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to Promises2Kids in Jeannie's memory.

She will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya L. Torosian". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tonya Torosian, MSW, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer, Promises2Kids

Building Confidence Thanks To You

Peyton (7) entered care when she was 3 years old due to severe medical neglect from her biological parents. Due to her complex medical needs, she has lived in five different homes and currently lives apart from her twin brother and younger sister.



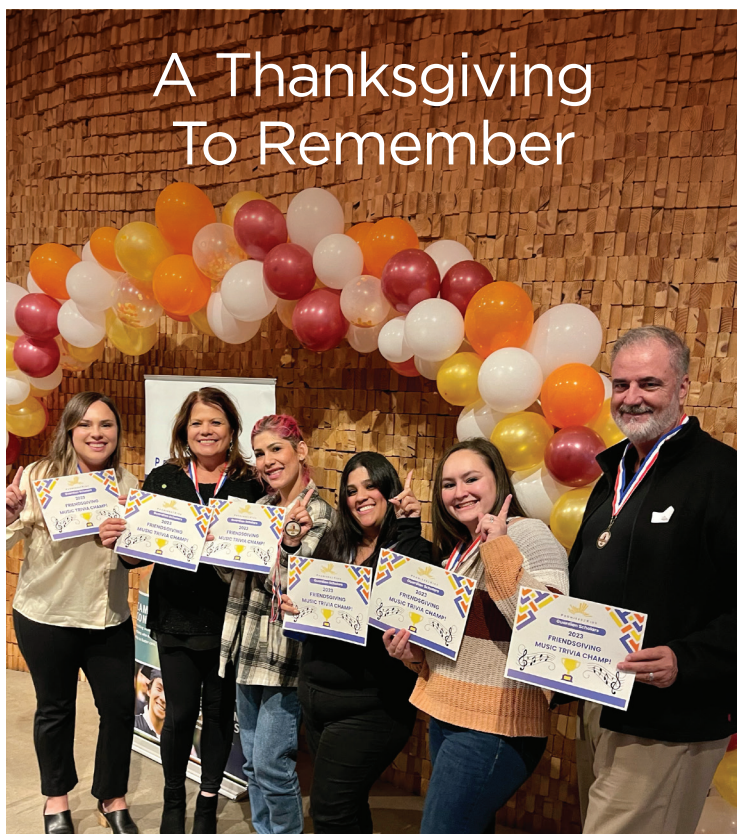
Peyton loves music and singing. She is part of a choir and is always singing in the car. Her caregiver noticed how fascinated Peyton was by the choir's piano, and how she loved watching the other children play. Peyton was eager to join her friends, but did not own a piano or know how to play. Her caregiver asked her if she'd like to learn and Peyton was very enthusiastic and excited. Through Promises2Kids' Something Special Fund, a piano was funded for Peyton to start playing her favorite songs.

When the piano arrived, Peyton saw it and immediately asked, "Can we please open it now? Can we please open it now?" They immediately unboxed the piano and ever since Peyton has been enjoying learning how to play. Recently, they had guests over at their home and Peyton proudly showed off the songs she had learned.

The piano has been fantastic in building her confidence and exploring her creativity. The once intimidating instrument has become familiar and has brought her so much joy.

Thanks to supporters like you, foster children like Peyton can have access to the same creative outlets as their peers.

A Thanksgiving To Remember



The holidays can be a difficult time for foster youth. As most across the country visit their families, many youth can feel left out. It's for this reason that our annual Friendsgiving event is one of the biggest in the calendar year. Nearly 200 Guardian Scholars, mentors, coaches, volunteers, donors, board members, and staff gathered to share a special family-style meal and celebrate our community.

The Promises2Kids family filled out LUCE in Little Italy for an evening that brought our ever-growing circle together. Caricaturists, a magician, a photo booth, and games led into a traditional meal shared around communal tables.

Events like these, filled with smiles, laughter and hugs, are an extra special reminder that our youth will always have a home here.

A special thank you to the ESET volunteer team, who, over the years have become a mainstay at this event and many others. It wouldn't be the same without you!

National Mentoring Month: Every Mentor Matters

January is National Mentoring Month, a time to acknowledge the importance of mentoring and celebrate our outstanding mentors. We are grateful to every mentor (one-on-one and group) who volunteers and dedicates their time to making a difference.

Mentoring plays a critical part of any young person's life, especially for foster children and youth. They do not have adult figures they can rely on in times of need. Our goal is to ensure that foster children and youth have adults they can count on for support and guidance at any given time.

We are honored and grateful to be a partner of Champions for Youth, The Century Club of San Diego's core charitable program. Each donation made until January 28th will be partially matched and all transaction fees will be covered by The Century Club of San Diego.

Mentoring opportunities are made possible by people like you! Visit charity.centuryclubsd.org/Promises2Kids or scan the QR code to donate and learn more.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, email Matthew@Promises2Kids.org.



Read below about the impact of mentoring on three Guardian Scholars.

I am 23 years old and I attend San Diego City College, studying to receive my associate degree in esthetician business administration. I have been a Guardian Scholar for over a year.

Being part of the Black Group has allowed me to open up with others who are a part of my race and can relate to me. Everyone is so kind and I love that everyone keeps it real. This means a lot to me because it's hard to find people who come from the same background as me and can be genuine.

I have connected with a mentor named Maya. She has taught me about entrepreneurship and the responsibilities and outcomes of owning a business. This has really impacted me because I want to eventually own a business, and hearing from someone who comes from the same background is amazing and motivational. She is very caring, easy to talk to, and is always willing to answer my questions related to owning a business. On top of that, I've been able to talk about my ethnicity and where I come from, and this group is like another family.

— DaTayia, Guardian Scholar



I joined Promises2Kids in 2018. I'm currently studying Electrical Engineering with a minor in Naval Science and Mathematics at the University of San Diego. I decided to join the Men's Leadership Network, and the mentors I have are a great resource and an amazing connection.

Mentors take the time to check in and truly care about the journey that I am on and the passions that I am pursuing. They help me get out of my comfort zone and become more comfortable with speaking to new people, larger crowds, or while under pressure. One way they help me develop this skill is by putting me through a panel of mock interviews. It can be fast paced and gut wrenching but helps you get used to answering tough questions while nervous and under pressure. This was something I was able to use last summer when I flew out to Washington D.C. for a job interview. I really appreciated feeling prepared and ready to communicate with the interviewers instead of being worried I would freeze up. This group along with the mentors who run it offer up a lot of knowledge and practical skills.

– Zane, Guardian Scholar



Most people assume that as a foster child you will not achieve success in life because of prior experiences, trauma, and negative influences in our lives. I met Gabby, my mentor at a Latinx meeting, where we automatically clicked before even knowing we would be matched. When I found out, I was excited to connect on other levels, outside of the Latinx group.

I realized that she was the first person I shared my story with who did not make me feel judged, criticized, or less than. Despite our life differences, our ages, and many other factors, we still have so much in common.

Gabby is sweet, caring, kind, respectful, and has supported me through so much, especially when it comes to my education and successes in life. I'm thankful for her helping me through situations where I didn't believe in myself. We enjoy every moment and absolutely love going to Disneyland together for therapy sessions with Mickey! I am blessed to have her in my life. She has made me feel valuable, capable of many more things than I ever envisioned for myself, loved, and cared for. Many of us do not have that in our lives. Knowing that I can turn to Gabby at any given moment for any type of support is a blessing.

– Cristina, Guardian Scholar



Your Support Brought Joy To Foster Children



Wish lists were once again fulfilled this holiday season, through our annual Give From Your Heart Holiday Gift Drive, presented by Carmel Mountain Preschool.

Thanks to our supporters, over 10,000 gifts and over \$12,000 in gift cards was collected and distributed. Our amazing community came together and collectively made sure foster children in San Diego enjoyed the holiday season and received gifts to enjoy and call their own.

A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Carmel Mountain Preschool, and support from ICW Group Insurance Companies, Boyer Moving & Storage, and KUSI News for making our gift drive possible. And a big thank you to over 100 incredible volunteers and all who donated for bringing joy to the lives of very deserving foster children.

An Unforgettable Shopping Experience

'Tis the season of joy and giving. This holiday season was brighter for nearly 900 foster youth who had the opportunity shop at Walmart stores throughout the County.

Each youth received \$200-\$250 based on their age, to help check items off their wish lists that they may not otherwise receive.



LEGO sets, LOL Dolls, TVs, AirPods, and bicycles were among the most sought out items. Youth even planned ahead and purchased items for their future college dorms, such as electronics and home appliances like air fryers and NutriBullet blenders. This was truly a special opportunity for youth to leave the store with handpicked items. They left with items checked off their wish lists, smiles from ear to ear, and an unforgettable experience!

We are thankful to all the volunteers who helped make this happen, and to the generosity of the Dunn Family for their continued support of this annual shopping event.

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

Celebrating The Holidays

The Guardian Scholars Holiday Party created space to celebrate the vibrant, diverse, talented, and inclusive Promises2Kids community. Nearly 250 Guardian Scholars, their families, mentors, volunteers, donors, supporters, and Promises2Kids staff joined each other at Liberty Station.

Guests helped themselves to carving stations, a mashed potato bar, and custom crêpes. The photobooth and caricaturists were busy as students and mentors alike took home portraits as keepsakes from this special night.

We are incredibly grateful to Independent Financial Group for sponsoring the event.

Co-Founder David Fischer, spoke about why he and his organization support Promises2Kids, from the inspiring youth we serve, to strengthening the San Diego community.

We are also thankful to have been joined by Frank Shamrock, retired martial arts champion and supporter. He has a special connection to our mission as he was raised in foster care himself. He spoke about how he wished organizations like Promises2Kids had been around when he young, and how meaningful it is to lend his support now, urging students to be true to themselves, believe in their talents, and make the best of Promises2Kids' services.

Many danced the rest of the night away of what was a memorable conclusion to the year!



Shopping For A Cause

Promises2Kids supporters kicked off the holiday season with a little cheer and a little help from Neiman Marcus in Fashion Valley. A private, closed-door shopping event was held where a portion of proceeds benefit San Diego's foster children.



The community came out to shop for a cause while enjoying festive drinks, an expertly curated wardrobe and gift showcase, beauty product demonstrations, luxe drawing giveaways, passed gourmet food tasting, and exclusive access to all that Neiman Marcus offers. Ten percent of all sales were donated to Promises2Kids essential programs, reuniting siblings separated in care, providing an emergency shelter, enabling independence through career training and higher education, and more.

We are extremely grateful to have Neiman Marcus San Diego as a partner in our mission to create brighter futures for San Diego's foster children. Their support year after year has been an inspiration to us and to those we serve.



An Evening at Pamplemousse Grille

Exclusive Gourmet Wine Dinner
Monday, January 22nd

6pm Reception ♦ 7pm Dinner

Executive Chef and Owner Jeffrey Strauss has crafted an elegant 4-course meal.

Each course will be paired with two hand selected wines.

\$450 per person (includes tax and gratuity)
Limited Availability

For more information or questions, email
Amanda@Promises2Kids.org or call 858-751-6603.

Promises2Kids.org/Pamplemousse



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Let's show foster youth just how powerful pennies can be!

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